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ROTHLEY TEMPLE CHAPEL, LOOKING EAST.

THE HISTORY OF ROTHLEY

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INTRODUCTION

By A. HAMILTON THOMPSON, F.S.A.

The object of the following account of the history of the manor and church of Rothley has already been explained in the notes on three other Leicestershire manors recently published in our *Transactions*. The manor of Rothley is of special interest as one of considerable size and importance, with widely scattered members, and with customs which give it a peculiar individuality. The questions of jurisdiction and tenure which arise in connection with it are of more than local importance, appealing particularly to the general student of manorial history and local government. On another side of the subject, the relation of the manor and church to the two military religious orders of medieval England is illustrated in a concrete form by the survival of the house and chapel of the Knights Templars in the parish. These buildings are described in the following pages by Mr. Fosbrooke, while Mr. Watts is responsible for the description of the church. Ecclesiastically, the parish, with its distant chapelries, while not unique, is at any rate quite exceptional. The list of incumbents has been drawn up from records of institutions kindly supplied by the Rev. C. W. Foster, prebendary of Leicester St. Margaret's in the cathedral church of Lincoln. Unfortunately, owing to the fact that the priests of the various chapels were appointed by the vicars of Rothley at their pleasure, according to the universal custom in such cases, so that there is no consecutive record of their appointments, no satisfactory lists can be made of them. Their names, however, even if they could be obtained, would be of little or no value to the historian.

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ENGLISH LOCAL

ROTHLEY

- I. The preceptory, by T. H. Fosbrooke, F.S.A.
- II. The descent of the manor, by George Farnham, F.S.A.
- III. The church, by Rev. J. Wallace Watts.
- IV. The vicars of Rothley, by A. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A.

I.—THE PRECEPTORY

By T. H. Fosbrooke, F.S.A.

There is probably no manor in the county of Leicester which offers greater attractions to archæologists than the manor of Rothley. Certainly no other manor boasts so large a number of members within the orbit of the jurisdiction of its lord, the soke of Rothley at the time of the Domesday survey of 1086, comprising manorial rights in no less than twenty two outlying hamlets, besides Rothley proper. The student of ancient customs connected with manorial Courts as well as the lover of ancient buildings will find in Rothley a field for his investigation, the former in the peculiarities of gavelkind and tenants holding ancient demesne lands, the latter by inspecting the thirteenth century chapel and the other remnants of the home of the Knights of the Temple.

From Edward the Confessor, through Norman and Plantagenet kings, the Knights Templars, the Knights Hospitallers, and a long line of Babingtons who hailed from Chilwell and Dethick, the very names of the lords of the manor of Rothley add to the interest connected with the place; while in later times its associations with lord Macaulay, whose birthplace it was, with Wilberforce, the champion for the abolition of slavery, who, amid the groves of Rothley Temple drew up in conjunction with his friend and host Mr. Babington, his long indictment of the cruelties practised in this inhuman traffic, and lastly with lord Kitchener, summoned from a visit at Rothley to conduct his campaign in Egypt, will always render Rothley famous.

The village of Rothley is situated half a mile to the west of the main road which leads from Leicester to Loughborough and equidistant from both places. About a quarter of a mile further west stands the manor house known as the Temple from its connection with the Templars.

The situation of the Temple is typically monastic, lying low amid pastures of vivid green through which the Rothley brook winds its course from the hills of Charnwood to join the river Soar near Cossington, the ancient preceptory, surrounded by fine timber and charming gardens, greatly enlarged and much modernised, makes a delightful residence.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

The manor and soke of Rothley were granted to the Knights Templars by King Henry III. in the year 1231.

This famous Order was started during the first Crusade, in the year 1118, by nine French Knights, who took the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and depending solely on the alms of the faithful, they were termed "Poor Knights." At one time their poverty was so great, that only one horse was allowed to every two knights, a condition portrayed on their seals where two Knights are seen riding on one horse. (See Appendix A.) The special object of the fraternity was to protect pilgrims on their way from the coast to the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. They also undertook to wage perpetual war against the infidel in defence of the Cross.* Baldwin II., King of Jerusalem, assigned to them

*St. Bernard de Clairvaux, who died in 1153, has given a wonderful picture of the Knights Templars in his discourse on the New Chivalry:—

"The soldiers of Christ live together in common in an agreeable but frugal manner, without wives and without children; and that nothing may be wanting to evangelical perfection, they dwell together without property of any kind, in one house, under one rule, careful to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.....
"There is but one heart and one soul, as each one in no respect followeth after his own will or desire, but is diligent to the will of the Master. They are never idle nor rambling abroad, but when they are not in the field, that they may not eat their bread in idleness, they are fitting and repairing their armour and their clothing, or employing themselves in such occupations as the will of the Master requireth, or their common necessities render expedient. Among them there is no distinction of persons; respect is paid to the best and most virtuous, not the most noble. They participate in each other's honour, they bear one another's burthens, that they may fulfil the law of Christ."

a portion of his palace in that city, and the abbot of the adjoining convent, having granted them a piece of ground near the Temple for their home, the Knights assumed the name of Templars. The Knights wore a white mantle, to which a red cross was added on the left breast in 1166, by order of Pope Eugenius III., as a sign of their constant exposure to martyrdom. They observed the rule of St. Austin, and admitted spiritual members to the Order termed chaplains; married knights were admitted, but there were no sisters of the Order. Their patroness was the Virgin Mary and the head of the Order was termed the Grand Master.

Owing to the fame of the Templars and their feats of arms in the Holy Land, the sons of the nobility in France and England flocked to their standard.* Lands and riches were showered upon the Templars to such a degree, that they soon became as noted for their wealth as they were formerly for their poverty. A third class of humble servitors was added to the Order, and each Knight possessed no less than three horses.†

The Templars had their headquarters in Palestine, where they acquired defended houses, which were in fact strong castles, the ruins of some still remain. They also acquired estates in nearly every country in Europe.

They first came to England about 1140, and established themselves in London, at a spot known as the Old Temple on the south

*The Templars either received or adopted their far-famed Banner called in old French BEAUSEANT, in consequence of the black and white stripes of which it was composed, this name generally being applied to a horse of these colours, and Beauseant became also the War Cry of the Templars—a word of terror wherever it was heard. The banner itself bore the Red Cross of the Order, painted upon it, and the humble self-denying text of Scripture: “Non Nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.”—[Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give the glory.]

†In the early part of the XIII cent. GUYOT de PROVINS who had been a minstrel and became a monk, wrote as follows, concerning the Templars:—

“They are honoured in Syria, much dreaded by the Turks, and their Order would suit me well enough, were it not necessary to fight; but they are too brave. As for me, if I die, it will never be, I hope through prowess or courage. I had rather be a living coward, than have the most illustrious death in the whole world. Those worthies of the Temple are very exact in all which concerns the services of the Church; and respecting that point, I should yield to them in nothing; but the moment fighting commenced.....they should go without me. A battle is not wholesome. I willingly leave that honour to them; and please God, I hope to be neither killed nor wounded.”

side of Holborn. In 1185 they migrated to another site in Fleet Street where their establishment still continues, though long converted to other uses. Here stands that wonderful and beautiful building with its circular nave, still known as the Temple Church, designed on the same plan as the church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem.

The Templars erected on some of their estates in England buildings known as Preceptories, which were dependent upon the Temple in London. The existing remains of these preceptories are very scanty and it is impossible to obtain from them anything like a complete plan of the buildings.

After the grant of 1231 one of these preceptories was erected at Rothley, of which the chapel and a portion of the domestic buildings still remain.

Further grants were made by King Henry III. to the Templars, both of lands in Rothley itself and in several hamlets of the Soke. The King evidently held the order in high esteem and entrusted to them his body for burial after his mortal end—though as a matter of fact he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

In 1291, Acre, the last bulwark of the Crusaders against the Turks, opened its gates to the infidel after a siege of six weeks, at the close of which William de Beaujen, the grand master of the Order of the Temple, was slain. The few surviving Templars elected a new master, and forcing their way to the seashore, sailed for Cyprus, which now became the headquarters of the Order. For more than a hundred years the Templars had been one of the wealthiest and most influential factors in European politics; and though the ostensible reason for the existence of the Order was gone after 1291, the Templars continued for a few years longer in the enjoyment of their great wealth. It was probably owing to their riches that the Order was abolished. The prime mover in the extinction of the Order was Philip IV. of France, who no doubt had a greedy eye on the possessions of the Order. Having by his influence secured the election of Clement V. as Pope in 1305, Philip prevailed on him to become a consenting party to the contemplated suppression, and on 14 September, 1307, Philip issued orders for the arrest of all the Templars in France on the night of Friday, 13 October; while in the following month Pope Clement wrote to Edward II. to arrest all the English Templars, who were



ROTHLEY TEMPLE, LEICESTERSHIRE

FRONT OF ROTHELY TEMPLE.

From an engraving by John Scott (d. 1828.)

accordingly seized on 10 January, 1308. Accusations of heresy and a variety of other crimes were made against the members of the Order and frightful cruelties were resorted to in France to obtain confessions, most of the charges were unproved, though some confessions were extracted under torture. In England the proceedings against the Templars were more mercifully conducted, but their suppression was equally determined upon and on 22 March, 1312, the Pope entirely abolished the Order and transferred their possessions to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, known as the Hospitallers. This papal order was not entirely satisfactory to the King, who was in constant straits for money, or to the nobles who had cast longing eyes on the property of the Templars, and it was not until 1323 that the Hospitallers obtained the complete transfer of their rivals possessions to themselves.

THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS.

This Order was not originally a military one. It was established by some merchants of Amalfi in Italy for the purpose of affording hospitality to the pilgrims. They were permitted by the Caliph of Egypt to build a church and monastery near the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, which they dedicated to St. Mary of the Latins. A reception house or hospital was shortly added with a chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist. After the Christians became masters of Jerusalem, the Hospitallers formed themselves into a distinct society, at which time [1099] they took a vow that they would perpetually defend the Holy Sepulchre, wage war against the infidel and observe the rule of St. Austin.

Their badge, which they wore on their black robes, was a white cross. Their kindness to the sick and wounded soldiers of the first Crusade made them popular, and wealthy crusaders endowed them with estates. They were termed Knights of the Hospital, Hospitallers, or Knights of St. John from their patron saint.

In 1154, Pope Anastasius IV. granted them extraordinary privileges. All their lands were free of tithes, and their churches free from episcopal jurisdiction, as being extra parochial. They were however forbidden by him, having once entered the Order, to return to the world, or even to embrace any other religious institution.

The Hospitallers, who first established themselves in England

in 1100 at Clerkenwell, and whose Grand Commander in England became in rank the first lay baron of the realm, entered into possession of the Templars possessions at Rothley in 1313, and for the next 227 years held the manor and soke of Rothley, as held by their predecessors. In 1351/2 the Hospitallers, who already held one manor in Old Dalby, exchanged their manor of Thrumpton, co. Notts., for the other manor of Old Dalby which had descended in marriage from the Meynells to Sir John Waleys, kt., of Swithland. The royal licence for this exchange in mortmain is dated at Westminster, 20 March, 1351/2, for 100 shillings paid in the hanaper. [Patent roll, 26 Edward III., part 1, m. 16]. Having thus obtained the whole of the manorial rights of Old Dalby, the Hospitallers formed their manor of Old Dalby, Rothley and Heather into a Commandery under a Commander or Preceptor, (the terms are used indifferently in the deeds), whose residence was apparently at Old Dalby. In their later years, if not actually from this time, the Hospitallers let out to farm their possessions at Rothley, retaining in their own hands all the manorial rights which they possessed over the manor and soke of Rothley, their manor of Heather being treated in the same way.

After the expulsion of the Christians from Palestine in 1291, the Knights of St. John retired to Cyprus, and later on [1309] conquered the island of Rhodes, where they remained until finally driven out by Solyman II. in 1522. The Emperor Charles V. then conceded to them the island of Malta [1530], after which they were commonly called Knights of Malta instead of Knights of Rhodes as they had been termed.

They remained in Malta until 1798, when they were driven out by Napoleon, on his visiting the island on his way to Egypt. The grand master of the Order fled to Germany with a pension, and some of the Knights accepted commissions in the French Army. The majority fled to St. Petersburg, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy. The Order was divided up into different nationalities, each one of which was termed a Tongue.

Mr. J. T. Clarke, F.S.A., whose abstract of the Customary of the manor and soke of Rothley was read before the London Society of Antiquaries 19 June, 1879, [printed in *Archæologia*, vol. 47, page 89] published also a small pamphlet entitled "The

Babingtons, Knights of St. John." Mr. Clarke visited Malta in 1840, and says that he examined the archives of the Order for the express purpose of obtaining information relating to the preceptory of Rothley and the family of Babington. He only found there two thin quarto volumes, one containing the rental of the English Tongue according to the values current in the year 1338 when Philip de Thame was prior of the Order in England; the other containing the minutes of the deliberations of the English Tongue from 1524 to 1559 with the autograph signatures of the Knights present at each Council.

The names of six Knights of the family of Babington appear on the rolls of the Order of St. John, of whom five belonged to it during that part of the 16th century when the seat of its government was removed from Rhodes and established at Malta. One of these Knights, Sir John Babington, was certainly of the Dethick or elder, and one of the Ottery, a junior, branch of this family. Both branches descend from a certain Sir John Babington who died in 1409.

Sir John Babington, the elder of the five Knights of the name, and the highest in rank in the Order, was the second son of Thomas Babington, of Dethick, and Edith Fitzherbert, of Norbury, his wife. He was the elder brother of Humphrey Babington, the lessee of Rothley Temple, who died in 1544.

The date of Sir John's entrance into the Order is unknown. Certainly in 1505 he had not attained to any of its dignities. Before the year 1522, he was farmer of the preceptory of Temple Bruer, co. Lincoln. On 3 July, 1526, Sir John's name appears in the aforesaid book of minutes for the first time, in which he is described as Commander of Dalby and Rothley and treasurer of St. John in England.

In 1527/8 Sir John became prior of the Order in Ireland, but almost immediately exchanged this office for the office of Turcopolier with the Commandery of Dinemor. The office of Turcopolier was peculiar to the Tongue of England and ranked in England next to the prior.*

Mr. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A., has kindly supplied the note on the etymology of the Turcopolier.

**Turcopoliers*. *Turcopiliers* is an inaccurate form: *Turcopolerius*, *Turcopolarius*, *Turcopularius* are the best Latin forms. The derivation from *Turcos pellere* is not very likely—merely invented to explain a word

The Order was composed of eight nations or "Tongues," each of which was lodged in a distinct Auberge, had distinct duties allotted to it in the event of a siege, and was ruled under the Grand Master by its own officers, whose titles varied in each tongue. The chief officer in England being the prior.

In 1531, Sir John obtained for himself the office of bailiff of Eagle, co Lincoln, then vacant, and resigned the office of Turcoplier, and on 24 May, 1532, occurs this entry—Know that I, John Babington, Knight, being bayley of the Egell hath and rightly enjoy a mansion house not far distant from the Market Strada within the Borow of Malta, wherein now Sir Henry Pole, Knight of the honourable Tongue of England at that present remaineth. In witness whereoff the said Sir John Babington desired this might be registered in the boke of the tong in the yere of ower Lord 1532, the 24th day of May. Brother Philip de Vyllers being Lord Grand Master. On 4 November, 1532, Sir John signs as Bayley of the Eagle, but in the private muniments at Rothley he seems to have retained the title of prior of Kilmainham, or of Ireland. The date of Sir John's death is unknown, but from an entry on the Common Pleas Plea roll for Trinity term, 1533, m 556, he was then dead. His effigy in alabaster, attired as a Knight of St. John, forms one of the ornamental figures around his father's altar tomb at Ashover, co. Derby.

whose original sense had become obscure. The entries in Ducange explain the true derivation. William of Tyre and other mediaeval chroniclers mention *Turcopuli*, light-armed cavalry soldiers employed in the Byzantine army, so called because they were sons of Turkish fathers (*Τορροζότονλος*—son of a Turk; for patronymic termination—*πονλος* cf. common Greek surnames like Euminopopoulos) and Christian mothers. Thus Ordericus Vitalis, X, 19, speaks of the 20,000 *Turcopoli* sent by Alexius Comnenus with Raymond, count of Toulouse, into Cappadocia during the first crusade (1102): these are elsewhere described as the emperor's household troops. The commanders of these light-armed levies were called *Turcopolarii*. Subsequently, the *Turcopolarius* is found as one of the chief officers of the court of Cyprus. The word was transferred to the conventional bailiffs of the priory of St. John of Jerusalem in England as a title of honour: Ducange quotes the statutes of the Hospitallers, tit. 19, §7: *Turcopolarius, Bajulivus Conventualis venerandae linguae Angliae, dicitur a Turcopolis, qui, ut in historiis bellorum a Christianis Syria gestorum habetur, equites erant levis armaturae.*

Boisgelin confounded the *Turcopolarii* with the eight *Pilarii* or *Pillerii*, the eight bailiffs of the tongues, 'veluti columnae nationum, nam columnas vulgus Pillerios vocat' (*ibid.* tit. 19, §4). The two words have nothing to do with each other.

Of the other Babingtons who were Knights of the Order, Sir John, the younger, was described 27 June, 1528, as being nephew of the right worshipful Sir John Babington, Turcopolier; but this relationship cannot be traced. He signed the minutes on 4 August, 1531.

Sir James Babington, Sir Ambrose Cave and 12 others who came forth of England with Sir William Weston [afterwards prior] were received 3 October, 1524. Sir James had paid his fees 20 Feb., 1525, and signs the minutes on several occasions in 1527 and 1528. On 8 May, 1528, Sir James was dead. His name is not found in the pedigree, but he probably belonged to the Ottery branch of the family.

Sir Philip Babington was the third son of John Babington, of Ottery St. Mary. On 13 July, 1531, "at the tong holden by "license, etc., Sir John Sutton, kt., Commander of Beverley and "Temple Bruer, then being Lieutenant Turcoplyer, received "Nicholas Upton and Philip Babington to be of this noble religion "by the cousent of all the Commanders and Knights of the "English nation there being resident, and that the said Philip "shall bring in his proofs in the space of two years."

Sir Philip signed the minutes in 1531, 1533, 1536 and 1537. He was living at the time of the dissolution of the Order in England in 1540, and is mentioned as one of the confrères of the late hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England among the Court of Augmentation payments in 1542.

In a letter from Sir Nicholas Upton to Sir Henry Pole, Commander of Dalby and Rothley, dated 15 April, 1540, he is mentioned thus—"Sir Philip Babington has departed and left the "galeys where he was the ornament and forsoke the banner of our "religion and without licence of my lord master," etc.; also in another letter written to Sir John Sutton, kt., commander and receiver general of St. John's at Coventry, Sir Nicholas says: "Also, Sir, ye shall know that Sir Philip Babington left hys "banner and like an apostate without any licence left." etc. [Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, Henry VIII.]

Sir Nicholas Babington may have been of the Ottery line,

his pedigree is unknown, he signed the minutes in 1532, 1533, 1534, and 1539.

Mr. Clark says that the English "tong" does not seem ever to have flourished in Malta. The present magnificent auberges were erected after the English dissolution, and the auberge of England is a mean, poverty stricken house. The chapel in the cathedral appropriated to England was never occupied and the monument of only one British Knight appears in the whole edifice.

In 1814 a general Chapter of French, Spanish and Portuguese tongues was held in Paris, the result of which was the revival of the dormant English tongue, which had had its Charter regranted by Queen Mary [Tudor] in 1557 and never revoked, and from this date continued its existence as a voluntary institution.

In 1878, Queen Victoria granted a fresh charter, which, founded on the charter of Queen Mary, revived the mediæval Corporation of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, as the Order was officially styled from its early days until its dissolution in England by Henry VIII. in the year 1540.

The Order is still established at St. John's Gate in Clerkenwell. The Chapter General has for its patron his Majesty the King, and the Duke of Connaught is the present Grand Prior. There are 350 Knights of two degrees, viz., Knights of Justice and Knights of Grace, also ladies of Justice and ladies of Grace, Esquires, Honorary serving Brothers and Sisters, and Hon. Associates.

The work of the British Order is the control of St. John's Ambulance and Brigade, the British Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem, and during and since the War the Voluntary Aid Detachment commonly called V.A.D.

The Knights of St. John held the manor and soke of Rothley from 1313 to 1540, when the Order was suppressed by Parliament and pensions on a liberal scale were awarded to the members of the Order. Their possessions passed to the Crown which dealt with them through the Court of Augmentations of the revenues of the Crown.

Applicants for the lands lately held by the religious orders

sent in their applications to this Court, which settled the terms of payment. No doubt in many cases it was considered politic to send the application in the name of a friend who was supposed to have more influence with the Court than the intending purchaser. Whether this was so in the case of the Hospitallers possessions at Rothley is uncertain, we can only form our own conclusions from the method employed. Now it so happened that in 1540 a certain Humphrey Babington, a younger brother of Sir John Babington the Commander of Dalby and Rothley who died about 1533, held an unexpired lease of the manor house [*i.e.*, the Temple] and the demesne lands [*i.e.*, the home farm and buildings] at Rothley. But Humphrey did not himself apply to the Court for the property he was renting: the application was made by one Henry Cartwright of Brickhill, co. Bucks., and the house and lands for which he applied at Rothley were only a part, and to Henry a very unimportant part, of what he applied for and really wanted. The obvious suggestion comes to one's mind that in applying for Rothley he was acting on behalf of Ambrose Cave to whom he sold the Rothley portion almost immediately after it was granted to him. Henry Cartwright's application was made in the year 1543 and in 1544 he sold the lands granted to him in Rothley to Ambrose Cave. Humphrey Babington, the lessee, died 22 November, 1544, and was succeeded in the unexpired lease by his son Thomas Babington, to whom Ambrose Cave sold the freehold in 1565 together with his other more recent purchases in Rothley, such as the advowson of Rothley, the tithes and other things, (the details of which belong to other portions of Rothley history), and last, but certainly not least, the manor and soke of Rothley.

From 1565 until 1845 the family of Babington were the lords of the manor and soke of Rothley. Their first object on taking possession of their newly acquired manor would naturally be the reconstruction of the buildings of the manor house [the Temple] by converting them into their family residence. Having already had a lease of 29 years of the Temple they certainly ought to have been good judges of what alterations were necessary. Fortunately for posterity the new owner decided to retain the chapel of the Templars. To what particular circumstances we owe this rather unusual forbearance from destruction, we are unable to

state precisely, possibly we may attribute it to the peculiar ecclesiastical jurisdiction held by the Hospitallers which the Babingtons were anxious to retain, possibly from more devout motives owing to their having used the chapel for their devotions during the 29 years lease, or again from the less devout motive asserted by the family in later times that the lord of the manor of Rothley could not be compelled to attend any place of worship except his own chapel, where probably the attendance would be voluntary. Whatever the motive may have been the result is eminently satisfactory. In addition to the preservation of the chapel, some portions of the domestic buildings contiguous to the chapel were incorporated in the re-arrangement of the buildings to suit the requirements of the family. Many alterations and extensions have been from time to time effected. In the present entrance hall is an arcade of three bays, evidently of the XVIIth century and the date 1742 appears on the drawing room, formerly the kitchen, chimney. Throsby's view of the house in 1790 shows two Elizabethan windows, having transomis and mullions existing at that time, but which have since then been replaced by sashes to assimilate with the other windows. The house also contains some fine old panelling and other woodwork of various dates, showing successive alterations and additions made by the Babingtons during their tenure.

Nichols says in his history, under Rothley, that the inter-marriages of this family are beautifully recorded in a large bow window, no such window exists to-day and the emblazoned shields of armorial glass are those which can now be seen in the east window of the chapel.

Lord Macaulay, when choosing his title, is reported to have said: "I determined to be Baron Macaulay of Rothley. I was born there [25 Oct., 1800], I have lived much there, I am named from the family which long had the manor there, my uncle was rector there." The birthroom, over the present drawing room is a gem of XVIIIth century panelling. Over the chimney piece hangs his portrait with an inscription on a brass plate recording the event.

On the vacant ground between the dining room and the chapel, which now leads to the tower entrance, was a room, with



ROTHLEY TEMPLE BEFORE 1895.
Note Entrance to Chapel and Lord Macaulay's Study.



Photo, by W. Bailey, Leicester.

ROTHLEY TEMPLE—WESTERN FRONT.

bed room over, the lower one being Lord Macaulay's study. These rooms (removed in 1895) were of Jacobean date, the lower one being entered from the dining room and the bedroom from the upper story of the tower. The position of these two rooms necessitated an external entrance to the chapel as seen in the photograph. Tradition has recorded that it was in this study that Macaulay composed his poem of "The Armada" and his wonderfull description of the bonfires was suggested to him when viewing the Beacon Hill from the high ground to the north of the Temple.

The Temple, as we see it to-day, presents on the eastern, which is the principal front, an Elizabethan house of two stories with dormer windows in the roof, the whole of the buildings are of the local granite, with stone quoins, moldings, copings, etc. The roofs are covered with slates from the Swithland quarries. Not a single original Elizabethan window remains in the house, although two were in existence at the end of the 18th century, the old mullioned and transomed windows having been replaced by sashes of the Georgian period. The eastern front has a small central porch and the façade is flanked by two slightly projecting wings, to the northern wing is attached the remains of the mediaeval tower leading into the chapel which forms a conspicuous and beautiful termination to the extreme north.

On account of the alterations made at various dates by the successive owners of the Temple it is quite impossible to give a plan of the Preceptory as originally finished by the Templars, but from an Extent or Inventory preserved at the Public Record Office in London of the effects belonging to them in the year 1308, preparatory to their dissolution, we can to some extent reconstruct the buildings as they existed at that date.

The inventory mentions the chapel, hall, kitchen, pantry, brewhouse, bakehouse and buttery, besides the farm buildings, and is printed in extenso in Appendix D. From this document it will be gathered that the appointments of the chapel were more complete than those of the house, while the farming stock and produce represent far the largest value of the whole place.

The buildings as they exist now may be divided thus:—

I. The Tower, the ground floor of which forms the porch

to the entrance door of the chapel, is approached from a small open space between the chapel on our right and the present dining room on our left. In this space stood, until 1895, the room known as Lord Macaulay's study, which was entered from the dining room through a small doorway which is now a window. The doorway into the Tower was blocked up by a fireplace, and this necessitated the opening out of a new external entrance into the chapel itself which was made by a new doorway between the 2nd and the 3rd buttress where the plinth has been (and still is) cut away. When this study, with the room over it was demolished in 1895, the fine early English doorway to the Tower was reopened, as also the original entrance into the chapel through the Tower, and the later exterior door to the chapel was walled up.

The ground floor of the Tower measuring internally 10 ft. 10 inches by 14 ft. 9 inches has a groined roof, the ribs of which are supported on four corbels of rude workmanship. The Tower was an addition after the chapel was built. Note how the chapel plinth has been cut away, and how the moldings of the archway to the chapel have been built over and hidden by the vaulted roof. (See Plate VII.)

Opposite the eastern doorway by which we entered is another one, now blocked up. On its external face the fine early English moldings still remain. What this doorway communicated with, it is now impossible to say, but most probably an open courtyard, from which the west window of the chapel received its light. A fragment of projecting masonry, about ten feet from the ground to the right of this doorway, seems to suggest the continuation of a wall or staircase turret. (See Plate 4, letter K.)

The south door opens into the dining room, doubtless the hall of the Templars. Over the ground floor of the Tower is a room in which one of the original windows remains, a narrow lancet only seven inches wide. The entrance to this room is by a very narrow passage, 2 feet 6 inches wide, in the S.W. angle of the Tower which communicates direct with the main first floor landing of the house, the floor of the Tower room being 2 feet 7 inches above the level of the landing. This passage in the thickness of the walls is original, and must have communicated with some staircase now destroyed, and of which the projecting piece of masonry before mentioned formed part.



Photo, by W. Bailey, Leicester.

ENTRANCE TO CHAPEL FROM TOWER.

It will be remembered that the Tower was built subsequent to the erection of the chapel, to which it was attached at the west end of the south wall, consequently only three new walls were necessary, the fourth one being the south wall of the chapel itself. The Tower, however, was at least three stories in height, and though the chapel wall formed one side for two of the stories, it became necessary, when the height was increased further above the chapel eaves, to provide a new fourth wall for the additional story. This was effected by inserting two corbels just above the level of the floor of the Tower chamber and erecting thereon an arch of 10 feet span and 7 feet 9 inches high to the apex (see plate VII.) On this arch the north external wall of the Tower was carried. A portion of this third story, which internally became a square of 11 feet, can still be seen in the roof.

The ground floor of the Tower is commonly termed "the Crypt" from the fact that it contains a much mutilated effigy of a cross legged Templar. In 1790, this effigy was found by Mr. Nichols, the county historian, lying in the churchyard, its original position having been inside the church, probably in the recess in the south wall of the chancel, from which it was removed, as was often the case, to make room for the monument of Mr. Babington who died in 1567. The result of Mr. Nichols' strictures on this act of vandalism was to procure the return of the effigy to the church in 1829., as is recorded on a leaden tablet now affixed to the wall of the crypt. At the restoration of Rothley church in 1876 the effigy was again taken out of the church and deposited in its present resting place together with the remains of some of the incised alabaster slabs which once covered the tombs of the Kyngstons and others inside the church, and which are generally believed to have been broken up at the time of this restoration for the purpose of conversion into small alabaster ornaments to be sold in aid of the fund for defraying the costs of the restoration of the church.

II. The chapel, on the extreme right, was erected about 1240, with alterations made by the Hospitallers (chiefly to the roof and the east window) about two centuries later.

This building is perhaps the finest example of a chapel built

by the Templars to be found in England, that of the Temple Church, London, alone excepted.*

Its internal dimensions are 47 feet, 5 inches long by 19 feet, 5 inches wide; 20 feet in height from the floor to the eaves and 36 feet from the floor of the ridge. The eastern end is raised by one step of 7 inches in height for a distance of 12 feet from the east wall.

The only entrance to the chapel is from the tower by a small Early English doorway in the south wall towards the west end.

The building is lighted by three Early English windows in the north wall, three in the south wall, a single window in the west wall and a very large one, of much later date, in the east wall.† All these windows, with the exception of the east window, are of similar design, consisting of long single narrow lancets with trefoil heads, having wide splayed jambs internally, around each

*The Church at Temple Balsall, in Warwickshire, dedicated to St. Mary, is frequently given as a chapel of the Knights Templars, but though the Order owned land there, the present building was not erected by them, but some years after their suppression, by the Hospitallers. This Church is much larger than the Temple Chapel at Rothley, being 104 feet long, 39 feet wide and 57 feet high. It is in the early Decorated Period, about 1330, and is considered to be the finest example of that style in the Midlands.

It has many features in common with Rothley, such as the same number of bays, buttresses and windows, doorway near the S.W. angle, Chancel of a Single Bay carried above the Nave floor but with no chancel arch and no Aisles, simply a rectangular Nave. Balsall has the addition of a Priests' door, in the second bay of the south side, and at the S.W. angle is a small tower containing a spiral staircase.

The ancient Refectory still exists at the west end of the church. It consists of two portions (1) The Hall, 70 x 30, divided into nave and aisles by massive wooden pillars, and (2) A smaller building at the west end (separated from the hall by a party wall, pierced by a single door)—containing a spacious fireplace, with massive stone chimney. The Hall is enclosed in later brickwork, and has been converted into chambers for the Bailiff and Governors of the Hospital. There are many interesting foundations of former buildings, traces of the moat and fishponds, all of which are well worthy of study and might throw some considerable light on the Preceptory at Rothley.

†In the middle of the XIX. cent. when symbolism was read into every feature of an ancient ecclesiastical building, the number 9 was considered to have a special mystic significance in the works of the Knights Templars. Like other chapels of the Templars such as Swyngfield, Sutton le Hone, etc. The Sanctuary of Rothley Temple originally possessed NINE windows. M. Violet de Duc, the great French Architect, in his article Temple (Dictionnaire de l'Architecture Francaise du XI^e au XVI^e siècle), remarks thus:—

"We must not forget the founders of the Order of the Temple were Nine in number—the square of three. They were not allowed to add new members for nine years, and the numbers 3 and 9 are frequently found in the chapels of the Commanderies."



Photo, by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

ROTHLEY TEMPLE CHAPEL—LOOKING WEST.

of which runs a bold roll molding. The internal arches to the heads are so slightly pointed that they approach almost to the segmental, and a curious feature to be noted is that the roll molding of the arch has an additional fillet not found on the jambs.

Between each window is a buttress dividing the walls into four bays, but the extreme western bays are devoid of any opening, retaining only their blank walls with the exception of the small entrance doorway on the south. The west window is slightly higher and wider than those on the side walls, but their cills are all on the same level, beneath which runs a molding encircling the whole building, except where broken by the doorway. These seven windows are beautiful examples of the Early English style, and remain the original work of the Templars.

The east window, however, is one of a very different design—in fact a combination of the Early English window of the Templars with subsequent alterations made by the Hospitallers in the Perpendicular period. The original state of this window, and its conversion into the present one is best explained by reference to plate V. It will be seen that when first erected it consisted of three single lancets side by side, the central one being higher than the side ones. The east window of a Templar's chapel at Swyneford in Kent is of this treatment, as are also several windows of the Temple Church, London. In order to obtain the maximum amount of light without increasing the width of the opening, the whole central portion between the jambs was removed, and filled with the present lighter and much restored tracery of the 15th century. The capitals, shafts and bases of the Early English treatment are still visible, externally and internally, of the jambs of the present window. Above the capitals, not only was the pierced walling (known as plate tracery) removed, but the jambs themselves were continued upwards for another 7 feet, before the whole was crowned with the present arch. This alteration is very noticeable on the exterior on account of another kind of stone having been used, the yellow ironstone from Holwell. The internal Early English arch, however, was not changed.

The east window contains much good heraldic stained glass relating entirely to the family of Babington and their alliances. A full description of these is given in Appendix A.

To the right of the east window on the south wall is an exceptionally beautiful example of that somewhat rare feature—a double piscina.

The floor beneath the east window is partly laid with Swithland slate slabs, recording the names and dates of the various members of the Babington family who are interred in the family vault beneath. Behind the two small marble tablets on each side of the east window are immured the ashes of two sons of the present owner. (See Appendix C.)

Two other monuments, one on the south wall and the other on the north, are to later members of the family of Babington. (See Appendix C.)

To the left of the east window is an heraldic shield imposed on a marble disc, which appears to have formed originally part of a Jacobean tomb, probably in Rothley Church. There are no less than fifteen quarterings, one of which has the arms of Babington.

At the west end of the chapel is a font of uncertain date, but probably of the 17th century. It was removed from a farm house where it was doing duty as a trough for a pump, and placed in its present position at the restoration of the chapel in 1895. Adjoining the font is an old Jacobean reading desk.

On the north wall hang two hatchments of the Babingtons, the western one impaling Macaulay, the eastern one Cardale. The hatchment on the south wall is that of Vice Chancellor Sir James Parker, impaling Babington. (See Appendix B.)

The existing roof of the chapel dates from the 15th century, and probably contains some timbers of the 13th century. It consists of five tie beam principals dividing the chapel into four bays. The earlier roof was of much steeper pitch as shown in plate V., which is taken from the one still existing in the Templar's chapel at Swingford.

Before the chapel was restored in 1895 the western portion was divided from the eastern by a wall from floor to roof, the western part being used for domestic purposes, and the exact portion of this wall is marked by a chase. When this wall was removed the remains of two Elizabethan homilies, very much



Photo. by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

ROTHLEY TEMPLE CHAPEL.—WEST END.
Note buttress of Tower on extreme right.

defaced and almost illegible, were brought to light, one having been painted on the north and one on the south wall.*

Externally the chapel is well buttressed as shown in the drawings, but it should be noted that those of the eastern portion are not exactly the same as those of the western portion.

The fine plinth mold has been excavated at the west end, but remains buried on the north side where the ground is higher. At the west end the flat wall buttress to the tower should be noticed.

Leaving the chapel we cross the porch to the door opposite and descending a single step we enter the dining room.

The dining room which forms the northern wing to the Elizabethan house, is undoubtedly mediæval in spite of its modern appearance, and was probably the hall of the Templars. The only mediæval portions now visible are the south door which is opposite to the one by which we have entered, the buttresses to the external gable and the walls. From timbers still existing in the roof, it would appear that this hall was open from floor to ridge, the present

*The floor which divided the West End of the Chapel into an upper and lower portion, might have been inserted in the time of the Hospitallers, and though used in the time of the Babingtons for domestic purposes in connection with the house, was not necessarily of their erection.

The Western End of the Hospitallers' Chapel at Chilborn in Northumberland, retains its upper floor to this day. Erected by the Hospitallers, and not taken over from the Templars like the Rothley Chapel, it has *two* stories of windows at the west portion and only *one* at the eastern portion.

This arrangement of the West end was very common in Domestic Chapels of the Middle Ages, and may be seen in the ruins of several of our ancient castles. In our own county, the west end of Ashby Castle shews *two* upper floors, the uppermost one of which has a fire place. The Chapel at Bradgate House, also had an upper floor with a fireplace.

In all these cases, however, the East end was not enclosed but had an open screen towards the sanctuary of the Chapel. Before Trinity Hospital at Leicester was restored, the East End of the *Two Storied* Block of Almshouses, was open to the *one-storied* Chapel, and even now, after the reconstruction of the building, both stories are open to the Entrance Hall.

When the Babington family were in possession of the Temple, they seem to have replaced the screen by a solid wall, erected the buildings between the Dining Room and Chapel (now removed), and blocked up the Tower Porch with a fireplace. The only entrance to the chapel, therefore, was by the priests' door, under the middle window in the S. wall. This is shewn in the photograph on page 13, but it no longer exists and seems to have been removed at the restoration of 1895, when the opening was walled up, but the plinth remains cut away, thus marking its position. A similar fate had befallen the Priests' Door in the Chancel of the Parish Church at the restoration of 1879.

bedroom floor over the dining room being an Elizabethan alteration. The original dimensions of the hall, on the assumption aforesaid, would have been 50 feet by 21 feet and the walls are $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick as can be seen by reference to the plan. Modern rearrangement of the rooms, and the erection of additional walls, insertions of new doorways, together with the internal plastering and decoration have entirely obliterated the old work. The south doorway—discovered and opened out in 1895—probably led to the buttery, pantry and kitchen; but to-day it connects the dining room with the present entrance hall. The panelling, ceiling, beams and sash windows are all subsequent to the 16th century, but transomed and mullioned windows of Elizabethan date existed late in the 18th century as may be seen in Throsby's view [1780] and also in early photographs of the house.

The room over the dining room (now a bedroom but formerly the drawing room) contains a chimney piece which was sent from Egypt by Lord Kitchener as a present to his sister Mrs. Parker.

Leaving the dining room by the south door we enter the present entrance hall which is rich in panelling of the Jacobean and Georgian periods with much more of quite a recent date. There still remains here an interesting Jacobean arcade of three Doric arches and columns and in the bay behind there is a fine Georgian staircase of three flights.

Leaving the hall by a corridor and passing by two smaller rooms, the one on the east side having good Queen Anne panelling, we arrive at the present drawing room on the extreme south of the east front. This room was formerly the kitchen, but has been completely modernised since 1895. The old kitchen was a room of considerable interest having a central oak post, with struts supporting the large ceiling beams and a fixed table surrounding the base. There was a large open fireplace—now transformed into an ingle nook, and huge dressers on two of the walls. Over the old kitchen is the room in which Lord Macaulay was born.

The South Wing was erected in 1895, as recorded by the date on the western chimney, to replace the older buildings which were in such a dilapidated state that nothing short of entirely re-building them could be done. Plate I shows the plan of these old buildings before they were pulled down. The new buildings

comprise a large billiard room with bedrooms over it. In the first year of its erection this wing was entirely destroyed by fire but was immediately rebuilt.

The kitchens, etc., are also quite modern [1895] and are situated on the ground to the west end of the chapel.

About the same time the lodge, entrance gates, the stables and other out buildings were erected, but the lower part of the boundary wall between the kitchen garden and the road is old.

The approach from the Leicester road through the park, crossing the brook by a bridge rebuilt in 1819, is now rarely used.

At the back of the house between the south and north wings formerly stood some very fine yew trees, which were removed a few years back on account of the rooms being darkened by them. When grubbing up the roots the remains of a Roman villa were discovered. Another Roman villa was brought to light near the railway station when making the road known as the Ridgeway which has been fully described in our Transactions, Vol. ix., p. 157, and Reports and Papers, Vol. xxvij., part ij.

At a short distance from the south east angle of the house, there existed towards the close of the 18th century some masonry composed of three tiers of steps which appear to have been the base of a cross. The park now contains an 18 hole golf course.

Mr. Merttens, the present owner, purchased the Temple and estate in 1893 from Mr. Parker, and, soon after his purchase, and under the guidance of his architect Mr. Ely of Manchester, commenced a thorough and most conservative restoration of the whole place, for which antiquaries will always be grateful to him. The Temple had fallen into a terrible state of delapidation, but everything of antiquarian interest was as far as possible preserved. Mr. Merttens restored the chapel to its original state by taking away the wall which divided the eastern from the western portion. The eastern portion had always remained as a chapel, but the western portion, divided into two storeys, was used as a laundry above and as a wine cellar below, the laundry being approached by a wooden step ladder through the west window.

CONCLUSION.

In the foregoing pages, though I have made an endeavour to collect and bring under a single head, as much information as I could gather, of the associations connected with Rothley Temple and its architectural growth, yet no claim is made that what is here published is by any means exhaustive.

It is a matter, however, of some wonder, that a building of such historical and architectural interest, should hitherto have escaped that serious study which its importance demands.

Existing remains of the buildings connected with the Templars and the Hospitallers are very scanty, as compared with those of the other Monastic Orders, and a complete plan of one of their establishments has still to be evolved.

To Frederick Merttens, Esq., the present owner, I wish to offer my grateful thanks, not only for every assistance he has given me in the preparation of this paper, but along with every archaeologist of the Kingdom, for restoring and preserving to posterity this valuable historical monument.

I am much indebted to Mr. George Farnham, F.S.A., for the information which he has given me concerning the ancient state of the building, as shown by the survey of the year 1309, which he found at the Public Record Office in London, together with other historical notes and papers, all of which have helped to solve some of the difficult problems connected with the building, otherwise not understood.

To Mr. Albert Herbert, A.R.I.B.A., for his valuable help in measuring the building and providing several of the drawings which illustrate this paper, to Mr. Bailey for his kindness in supplying photographs with permission to reproduce them, to Mr. Galloway for loans of plans and other favours, to Mr. F. Sleath, who carried out the restoration and whose knowledge of the building previous to 1895 has been most valuable, and to several others whose help has been most acceptable, I wish to tender my sincere thanks.

To Mr and Mrs. Broadhurst, the present occupants of the Temple, I am more than indebted. Their kindness in allowing me free access at any time to any part of the buildings, to

measure or draw any portions I required, will be one of my pleasantest recollections, and without that privilege, this paper would never have been written.

LIST OF DRAWINGS.

I. Plans of the Ground Floor, First Floor and Attic of Rothley Temple as it existed before 1894.

Note (a) The division of the Chapel by a cross wall dividing the building into an Eastern and Western portion. The Eastern portion was open to the roof, but the Western portion was ceiled, and a floor inserted dividing this end of the building into two stories, a wine cellar below, a laundry above.

- (b) Lord Macaulay's Study with bedroom over.
- (c) Exterior entrance to the Chapel.
- (d) No external entrance to Tower, or connection with Dining Room.
- (e) Old Kitchen—now Drawing Room.
- (f) Out Buildings—now destroyed (7 and 8).
- (g) Position of Back Stairs.
- (h) No Porch.
- (i) Position of door leading from Hall to Dining Room.

II. Plan of Ground Floor as at present.

Note (a) Chapel restored to original plan.

- (b) Lord Macaulay's Study (site of).
- (c) External Entrance to Chapel through to the Tower and from Tower to Dining Room.
- (d) Kitchen connected with Drawing Room with Alcove to Garden.
- (e) New South or Billiard Room Wing.
- (f) New Porch.
- (g) New Kitchen Block.

III. Plan of Chamber Floor as at present, Western or Back Elevation.

IV. Block Plan of Site.

Front of Eastern Elevation, as at present.

Elevation of Chapel and Tower N.S.W.

Section through Chapel and Tower and Dining Room.

V. Interior Views of the Chapel looking East.

1. Time of the Knights Templars shewing the original East window before altered by the Hospitallers. The Early English Roof here shown is taken from the one still existing at Swineford, Kent.
2. Time of the Hospitallers and later, shewing the Perpendicular East Window and Roof, replacing the Early English ones.

VI. Details of the Chapel.

Note (a) The Capitals of the original Early English window marked (x) and the raising of the jambs an additional 6 feet before turning the arch of the Perpendicular one.

The figure of a Knight Templar is taken from one of the effigies in the Temple Church, London.

VII. Details of the Chapel and Tower.

- Entrance to Chapel from Ground Floor of Tower. Interior and Exterior Elevation and Section.
Note arch in upper chamber to carry N. wall of upper story of Tower.
- Corbels in Ground Floor of Tower to carry vaulting ribs.
- Section and Moldings to Windows and Doors.
- Reading Desk in Chapel.
- Font in Chapel.
- Heraldry of some of the principal families in East Window.

- (g) Fragment of Tomb, shewing shield of 15 Quarterings, No. 4 of which is Babington.
- (h) Cusping of unusual design in East Window.

VIII.

Details of the panelling in Lord Macaulay's Birthroom.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND ENGRAVINGS.

1. Interior of Chapel looking East. (Frontispiece.)	
2. East Front of Rothley Temple, from an engraving by John Scott (d. 1828).	page 4
3. East Front of Rothley Temple before 1895, shewing the Entrance to Chapel, Lord Macaulay's Study, and Base of Cross (Qy.)	, 12
4. West Front of Rothley Temple since 1895.	, 12
5. Entrance to Chapel from Porch under Tower.	, 14
6. Interior of Chapel looking West.	, 16
7. Exterior showing N. W. angle of Chapel.	, 18

APPENDIX A.

STAINED GLASS IN THE EAST WINDOW
OF THE CHAPEL.

Nichols in his history of Leicestershire, Vol. III, p. 955, has given a complete list of the Coats of Arms, as they existed in his day in "a large bow-window," but some portions were evidently lost or destroyed during or previous to their removal to their present position.

Only five Coats of Arms remain to-day out of the eight described by him. Their present positions in the window are, two in the left-hand or North Light, one in the central Light, and two in the right-hand or South Light.

I. In the upper portion of the North or left side of the window is the Coat of Arms of Babington, having six quarterings. The shield is surrounded with beautiful mantling, and surmounted with wreath and crest:—A demi-Bat. displayed gu.

1. This quartering is now blank, but, originally contained the coat of Babington:—Arg. 10, Torteaux 4. 3. 2. 1., in chief a label of 3 points Az. These arms to-day appear misplaced in the 3rd quarter (see below).
2. Arg., a fess vairé or and gu. betw. 3 water bougets sa. (Dethick.)
3. Babington (misplaced, see above). Nichols gives:—Sa. a lion rampant, a chief or.
4. Arg. a fess betw. 3 billets gu.
5. Arg. on a bend gu. 3 escutcheons of the first, a chief of the second.
6. Or. a chevron gu., a canton erm. (Stafford).

II. Right-hand side of window, upper portion. Arms of Beaumont, on shield with 4 quarterings surrounded with mantling and helmet, but crest is missing.

- 1 and 4. Az. semée of fleur-de-lis a lion ramp. or. (Beaumont.)
2. Arg. a bend gobonated gu. and sa. cotised of the second a mullet for cadency (Lenthorpe.)

3. Sa. two lions passant guardant arg. (Britley).

Nichols describes Nos. 2 and 3 as belonging to the Lenthorpe family, but gives no blazonry. He is correct as regards No. 2 but evidently wrong with No. 3.

III. Left-hand Light, lower portion of window.

BABINGTON AND HVMFREY.

BABINGTON	1. Babington (as No. I. 3.)
	2. Dethick (as No. I. 2.)
	3.a wivern in chief.....and a lion rampant in base.
	4. Arg. a Fess. betw. 3 Billets. gu.
	5. Arg. on a Bend gu. 3 Escutcheons of the first and a chief of the second.
	6. Stafford (as No. I. 6.)
	7. Beaumont (as No. II., 1 and 4)
	8. Lenthorpe (as No. II. 2)
	9. Britley (as No. II. 3)

Impaling.

HVMFREY	1 & 4. Gu. a Cross baton ar. pierced of the field (Humfrey)—("Arg. a cross crosslet sable. Wasterley."—Nichols.)
	2 & 3. Gules a Bend Arg. betw. 4 Leopards Faces Or.

This shield is surrounded with much classic scroll ornament, with figures holding cornucopias, etc., parts of which are missing.

IV. Central Light. Lower portion of window.

BABINGTON AND BEAVMONT

1—9. Babington. The same nine coats as in No. III.

Impaling Quarterly.

1 & 4. Beaumont (as in No. II., 1 & 4)
2. Lenthorpe (as in No. II., 2)
3. Britley (as in No. II., 3)

There is much scroll work similar to No. III., but no figures except a cherub's head.

V. Right-hand Light. Lower portion of window.

BABINGTON AND CAVE.

1—9. The same nine coats similar to Nos. III & IV.
(Babington.)

Impaling Quarterly.

1 & 4. Az. Fretty Arg. (Cave.)
2. Erm. on a bend gules. 3 whales heads erased.
(Whalley.)
3. Arg. A Chevron between 3 Martlets vert.

Scroll work surrounding the shield, similar to last with some portions missing.

The three following Coats of Arms, mentioned by Nichols, are now missing :—

VI. Quarterly.

1 & 4 (Cave).
2 & 3 (Lisley). This is a mistake for Whalley.

Impaling.

Three Bars.....a bend engrailed betw. 2 cottizes.

VII. Quarterly of Nine.

1. Babington.
2. Dethick.
3.A Wyvern in chief.....and a lion rampant in base.
4. Arg. a Fess. betw. 3 billets gules.
5. Arg. on a Bend gu. 3 escutcheons of the first a chief of the second.
6. Stafford.
7. Beaumont.
8. Britley.
9. Lenthorpe.

VIII. The Crest of the Babingtons (see No. I.)

In the staircase window of the house, is some modern stained glass, representing a Knight Templar and a Knight Hospitaller, in their costumes of the period, together with other emblems, etc., one of which represents the celebrated Seal of the Order, in which is depicted the figures of Two Templars riding on one horse. See page 2.

APPENDIX B.

HATCHMENTS IN THE CHAPEL.

In the days when armour was worn, it was usual on the decease of a great person to hang his armour or rather a lighter suit known as funeral armour, either over his tomb or on the walls of the church, but when armour was discarded, the custom was continued in another form, by painting his coat of arms, together with those of his widow, on a painted canvas, framed and hung diamondwise. Three of these 'Hatchments'—(the name is a corruption of the word 'Achievement')—are in the Temple Chapel, two on the north wall, and one on the south. They formerly hung over the front door of the house, for twelve months after the burial of the deceased, and finally were removed to the west end of the Chapel where they now hang. The custom is rarely resorted to now, but something of the same may be observed in a military funeral of to-day, where the accoutrements of the deceased are often placed on the hearse and even deposited in the church.

I. North Wall, at west end.

BABINGTON, impaling MACAULAY.

Arg. 10 Tortueaux, 4. 3. 2. 1 in chief a label of 3 points az.
(Babington) Gu. Two arrows in Saltire arg. sur-
mounted by a Fess chequy of the second and first
betw. 3 Buckles, within a bordure indented. or.
(Macaulay.)

Motto. RESURGAM.

This is the Hatchment of Thomas Babington who died 1837 (black ground). His wife Jean Macaulay survived him as shewn by the white background. They are both buried at the East End of the Chapel.

II. North Wall, adjoining No. 1.

BABINGTON impaling CARDALE.

Babington as before (Black ground). Az. a chevron arg. betw. 3 cornish choughs ppr. (White background) (Cardale).

Motto. MORS JANUA VITA.

This is the Hatchment of Thomas Babington (1715—1776) father of No. I. He married Lydia Cardale (1727—1791). They are both buried at the East End of the Chapel.

III. South Wall, West End.

PARKER, impaling BABINGTON.

Or, on three escutcheons az. charged with as many Pheons (Parker) Black ground.

Babington, as before, with the exception of the field, which is here painted or. evidently a mistake for az. (White ground.)

Motto. CAVEO.

This is the Hatchment of Sir James Parker, the Vice-Chancellor 1803—1852. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Babington, who survived her husband (1799—1858). Both lie buried in the Chapel.

He purchased Rothley Temple from his father-in-law in 1845.

APPENDIX C.

MONUMENTS IN THE CHAPEL.

I. Swithland Slate gravestones, in the floor of the Sanctuary (Chancel.)

1. Mrs. CARDALE, died 1778, aged 86.
2. Mrs. LYDIA BABINGTON, died 1791, aged 64.
3. THOMAS BABINGTON, died 1776, aged 61.

4. SUSAN FYCHE GISBORNE, born 1816, died 1823.
5. ANNE GISBORNE, born 1785, died 1785. } Two
6. CATHARINE BABINGTON, born 1766, } small
died 1767. } slabs.

7. Mrs. ELIZABETH BABINGTON, wife of the Rev.
MATTHEW BABINGTON, died 1793, aged 29.
8. FRANCIS BABINGTON, born 1764, died 1765 (small
slab).

9. THOMAS BABINGTON, born 1758, died 1837.
10. JEAN BABINGTON, born 1764, died 1845.
11. M. A. B. 1819.

12. MATTHEW BABINGTON, born 1792, died 1836, and
FRANCES his wife, born 1796, died 1878.

Swithland Slate Gravestones in the floor of the Nave.
13. LADY HARRIET ERSKINE, born 1784, died 1827.
14. SIR JAMES PARKER, KNT., VICE-CHANCELLOR,
born 1803, died 1852.
15. DAME MARY PARKER, dau. of THOMAS
BABINGTON, ESQ., born 1799, died 1858.
16. A small stone 9 inches square. WILLMORE, buried
Feb. Anno. 1773.

III. Marble Tablets on the Walls.

Two small tablets one on each side of East Window :—

1. In memory of FRITZ ROEL MERTTENS,
born Dec. 25th, 1898,
died May 25th, 1919.
2. In memory of JOHN BERNHARD MERTTENS,
born Jan. 3, 1907, died April 11, 1909.
3. Between the Sanetuary Windows on the North side
is a large white marble slab with a long in-
scription (printed in Nichols Vol. iii., p. 990)
to :—

The Rev. MATTHEW BABINGTON, son of THOMAS and LYDIA BABINGTON, Vicar of Rothley, died May 6th, 1796, aged 34 years.

4. On the North Wall of the Nave a white Marble tablet of black ground to :—
JEAN BABINGTON, 2nd, daughter of THOMAS and JEAN BABINGTON, born 1798, died 1839.
5. On the S. side opposite and similar to No. 4 :—
MARGARET ANN BABINGTON, daughter of THOMAS and JEAN BABINGTON, died 1819, in her 15th year.
6. In a wooden frame 2 ft. 4 in. x 3 ft. 2 in. are the fragmentary remains of the incised slab of AGNES KINGSTON, which was formerly in Rothley Church. It has been engraved by Nichols, in whose time it was entire.

APPENDIX D.

ROTHLEY—EXCHEQUER K. R. EXTENTS, 105, LEICESTER.

By this Indenture, Master Stephen de Segrave, executor of the will of Sir Gilbert de Segrave, late Sheriff of the counties Warwick and Leicester, on Saturday next after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope (March 12) in the second year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward (1309), delivered to Sir John de Leyk by the writ of the King the goods and chattels of the brethren of the Knights of the Temple, in the county of Leicester, in the King's hand, there being in the custody of the said Master Stephen, namely :—

In the Chapel. One Chalice, value 10s. Two old missals, the value of both 3s. Four sets of vestments, value of each set 5s. A tunic and dalmatic of linen cloth, the value of both 2s. One choir cope, value 18d. One frontal value 18d. Three maniples for the altar, value of all 12d. One porthors (book of hours) in two volumes, value 20s.

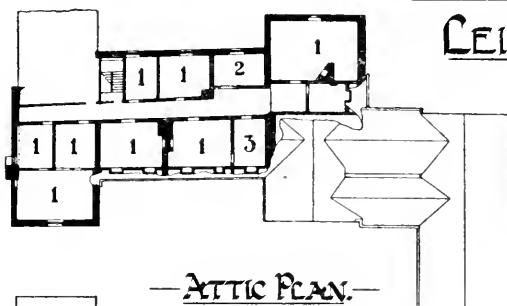
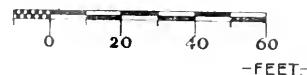
PLATE. NO. I.

ROTHCEY TEMPLE.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

BEFORE 1894.

— SCALE. —



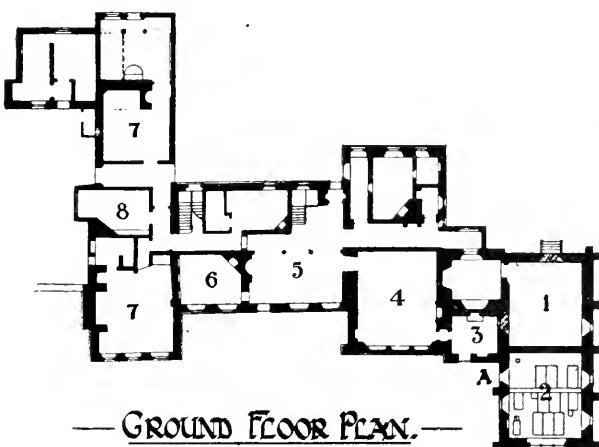
— ATTIC PLAN. —



— FIRST FLOOR PLAN. —

— Reference. —

ATTIC FLOOR.	1 Bedrooms. 2 Cistern Room. 3 Store.
FIRST FLOOR.	1 Bedrooms. 2 Lord Macaulay's Birthroom. 3 Drawing Room. 4 Laundry. 5 Upper Portion of Chapel.
GROUND FLOOR.	1 Part of Chapel used as Wine Cellar. 2 Chapel with Entrance at 'A'. 3 Lord Macaulay's Study. 4 Dining Room. 5 Hall. 6 Morning Room. 7 Kitchens. 8 Pantry.



— GROUND FLOOR PLAN. —

Thomas H. Todoroske
1921.

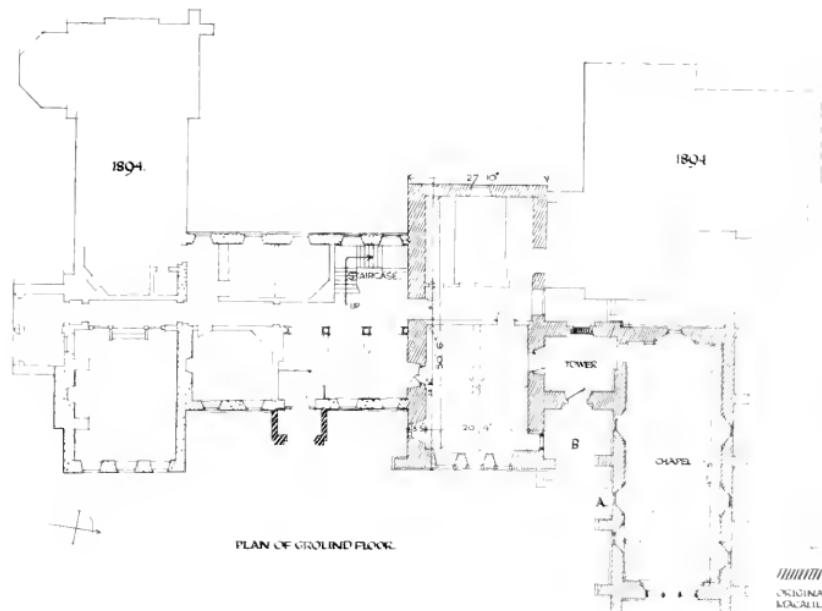


||||| 13TH CENTURY. CHAPEL CIRCA 1250.
TOWER & SOUTH
PORTION LATER
LATER.

||||| 16TH CENTURY.
PROBABLY CIRCA 1580.
||||| MODERN.

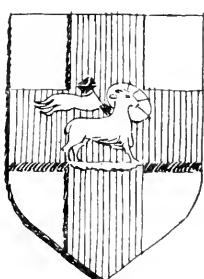
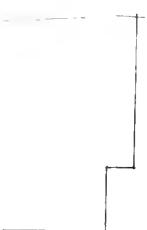
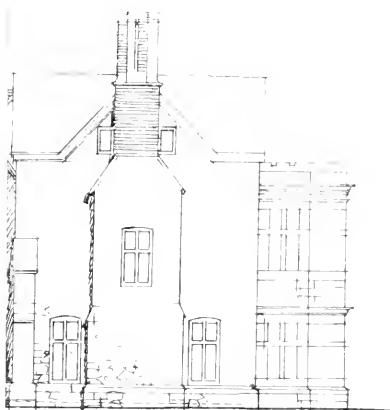
ORIGINAL PRIESTS' DOOR AT A.
MACAULAY'S STUDY WAS AT B.

ROTHLEY TEMPLE
LEICESTERSHIRE.



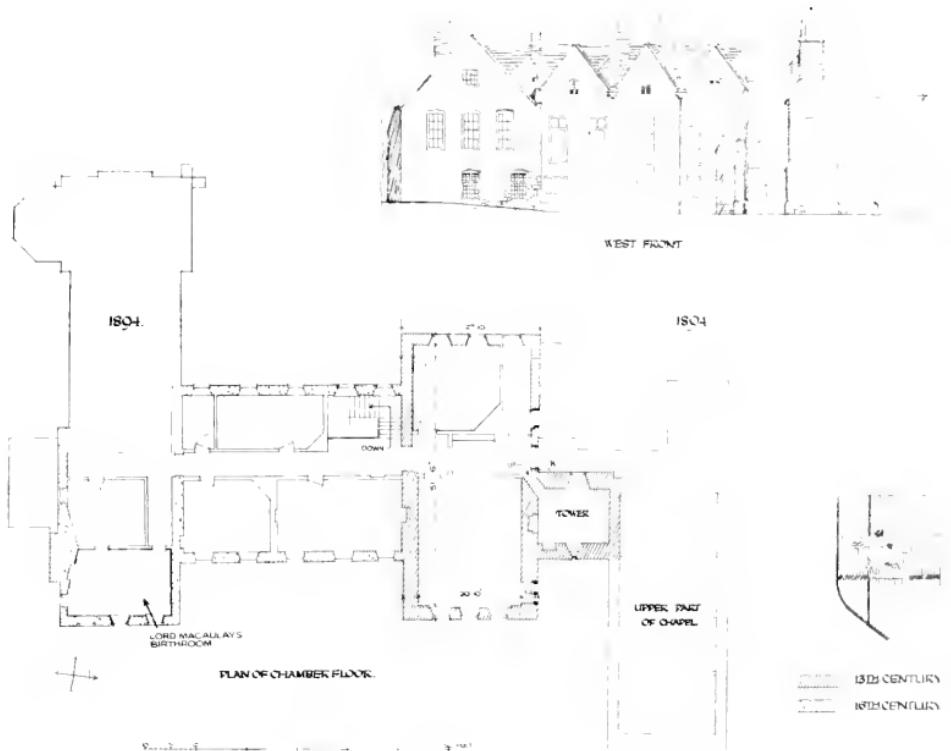
PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR

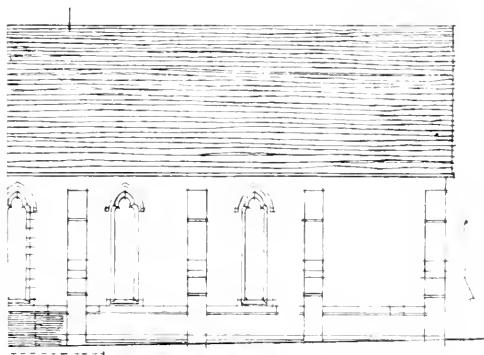
14TH CENTURY CHARTERHOUSE
TOWER-SOUTH
PORTION EARLIER
LATER
15TH CENTURY
PROBABLY 1450-1500
MOTTEIN
ORIGINAL PRIEST DOOR AT A
MACCALLUM'S STUDY WAS AT B



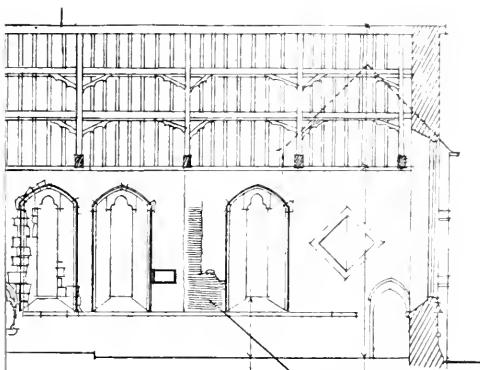
|||||| 13TH CENTURY. CIRCA 1290.

|||||| 16TH CENTURY. CIRCA 1580.

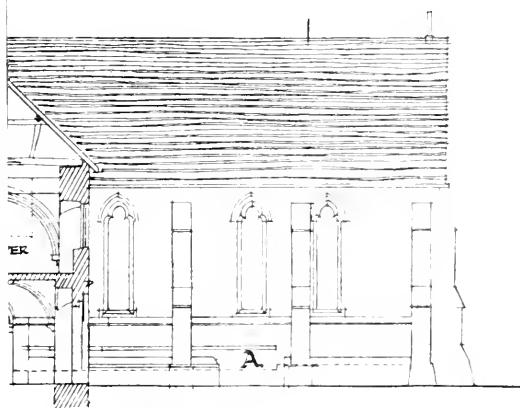
ROTHLEY TEMPLE,
LEICESTERSHIRE.



NORTH FRONT.



LOOKING SOUTH.



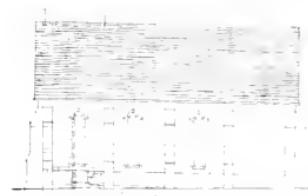
SOUTH SIDE.

PLATE NO.4.

ROTHLEY TEMPLE, LEICESTERSHIRE.



EAST FRONT

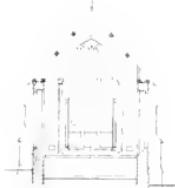


NORTH FRONT

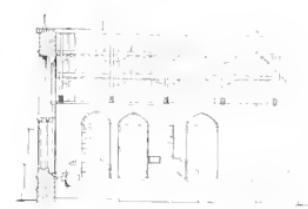
CIRCA 1250



LOOKING WEST

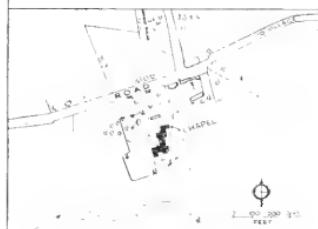


SECTION LOOKING EAST

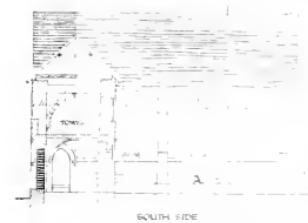


LOOKING SOUTH

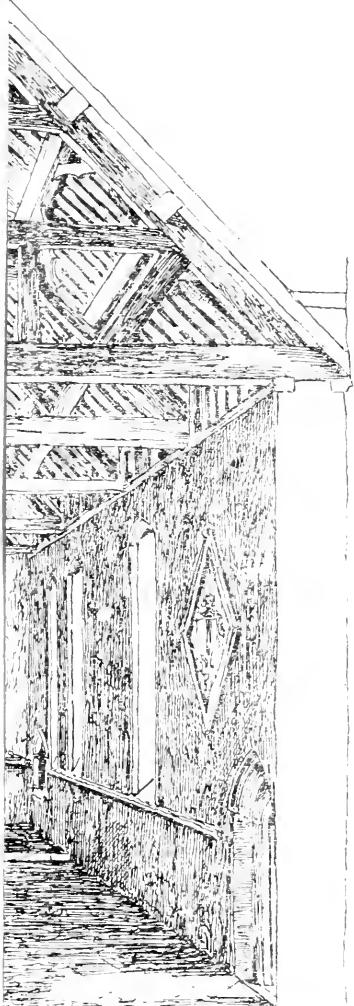
HEIGHT
ELIZABETHAN WALLS
WALLS 10 FEET



WEST SIDE



SOUTH SIDE



THE CHAPEL

THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALERS & LATER.

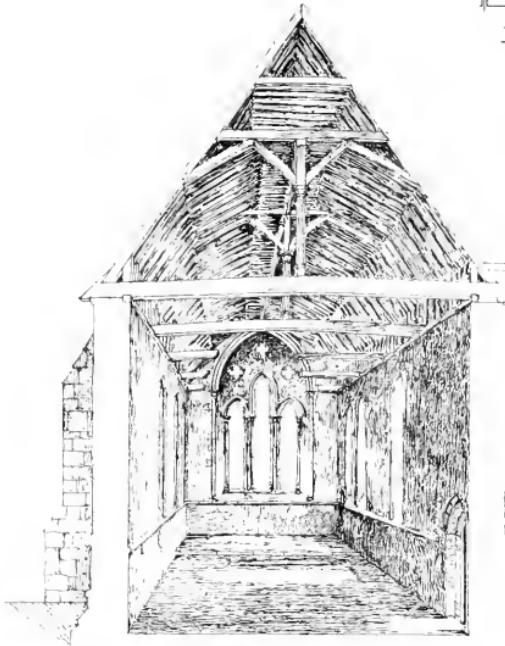
Thomas H. Fostercock.

1921

PLATE. NO 5

ROTHLEY TEMPLE

THE CHAPEL LOOKING EAST



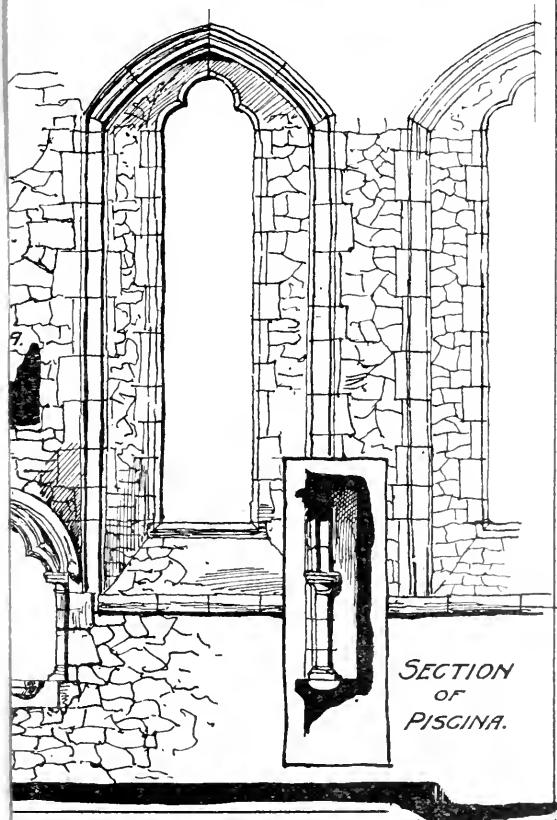
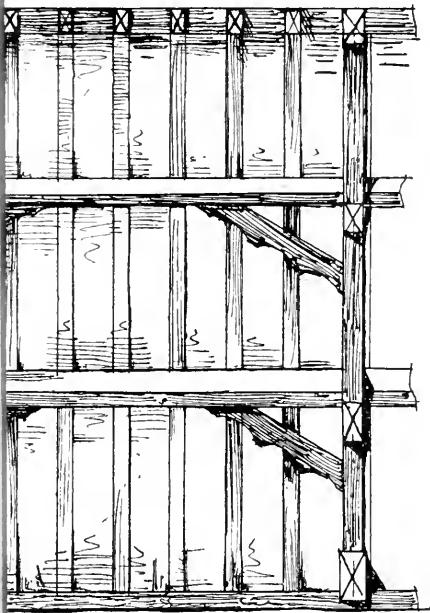
INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL

TIME OF THE ANTIQUITY TEMPLES



INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL

TIME OF THE LIGHTS



SECTION
OF
PISCINA.

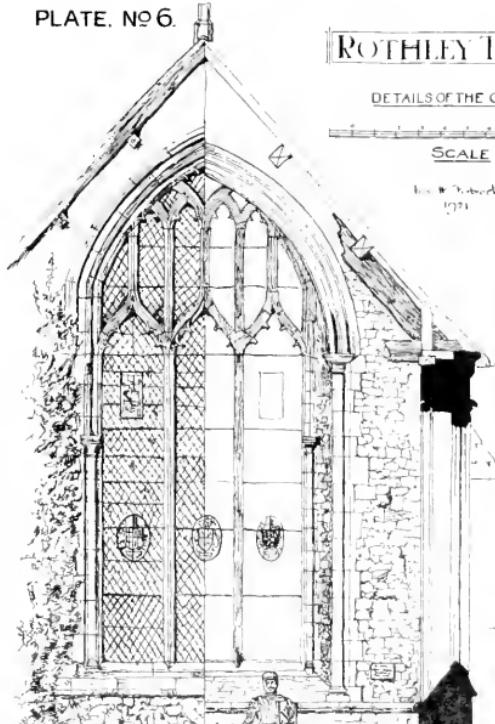
PLATE. NO 6.

ROTHLEY TEMPLE

DETAILS OF THE CHAPEL

SCALE

1 in. = 10 feet
1921



HALF EXTERIOR.

SIDE WINDOWS
EXTERNAL

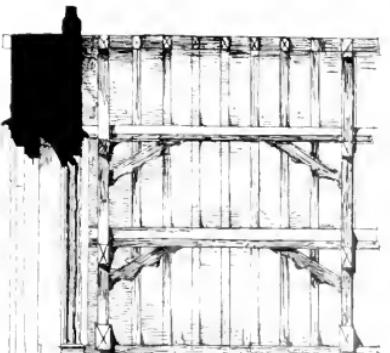
CAP & BASE
OF PISCINA



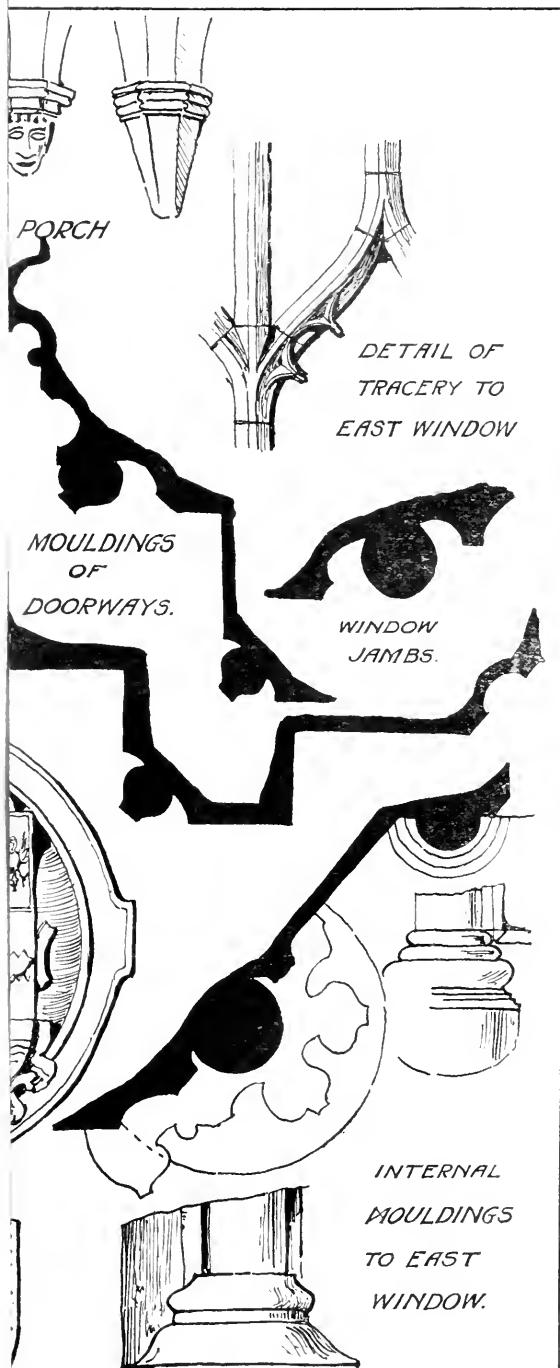
ARCH
AND
MOLD
OF
PISCINA



SECTION
OF
PISCINA



HALF INTERIOR.



Thomas H. Forbroke
1921

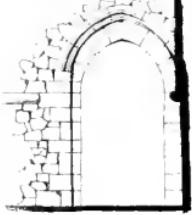
PLATE, NO. 7.



READING DESK



FONT

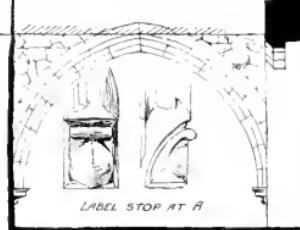


DOOR TO CHAPEL.
INTERIOR.

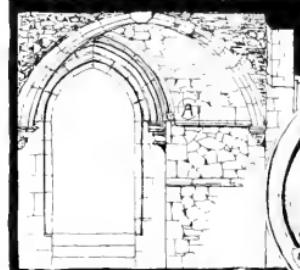


SECTION OF DOORWAY
TO CHAPEL

ROTHLEY TEMPLE.



LABEL STOP AT A



SECTION THROUGH TOWER
SHEWING ENTRANCE TO CHAPEL.



CORBELS IN PORCH



DETAIL OF
TRACERY TO
EAST WINDOW



WINDOW
MOULDINGS



INTERNAL
MOULDINGS
TO EAST
WINDOW



BABINGTON



BEAUMONT



HUMFKEY



CAVE.



CARDALE



MACAULAY.



PARKER.

B. & C. 1821. 1.

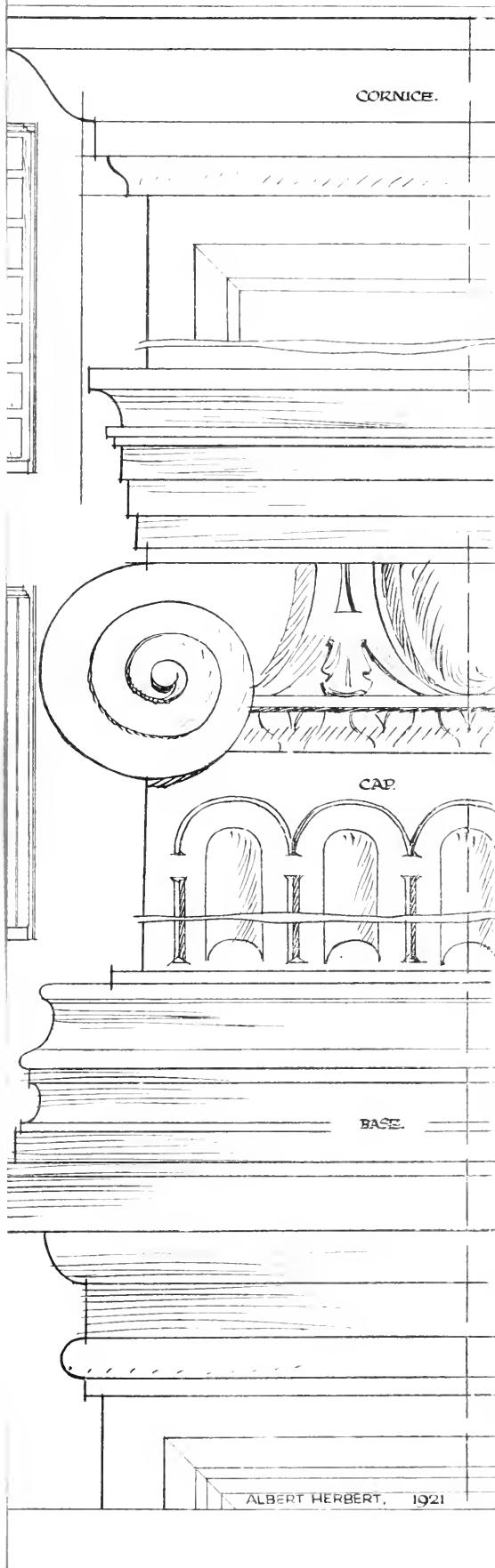
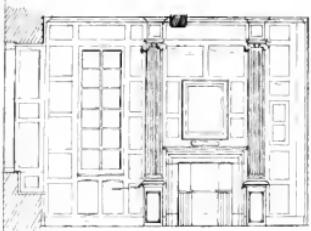
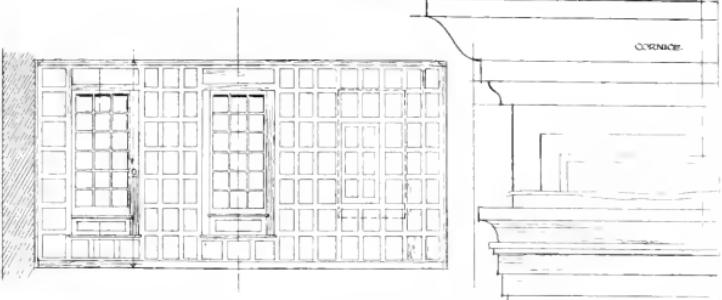


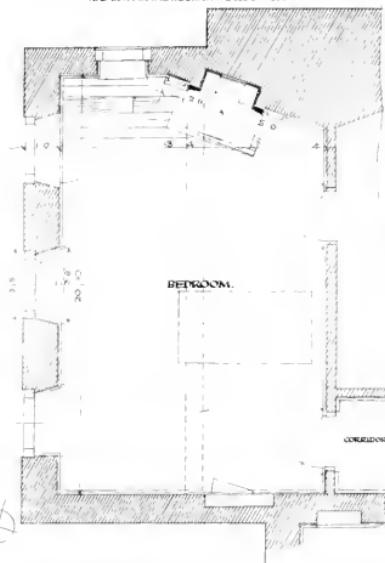
PLATE NO 8



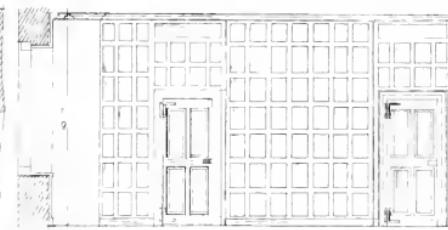
INSCRIPTION ON BRASS PLAQUE OVER FIREPLACE
THOMAS BROWNING MACAULAY
LORD MACAULAY OF ROTHLEY,
WAS BORN IN THIS ROOM ON THE 22ND OF 1800.



2 3 4 5 6 FEET

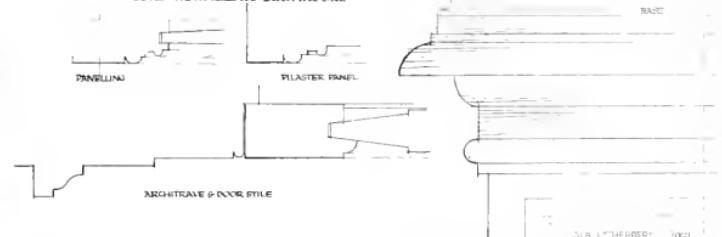


BEDROOM.



ROTHLEY TEMPLE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

LORD MACAULAY'S BIRTHROOM.



PANELLING

PLASTER PANEL

ARCHITRAVE & DOOR STYLE

MR. F. THERBERT 1821

One psalter value 18d. One Gradual value 18d. One ordinal, value 3d. Two rochets, value of both 6d. Two vials of tin, value 2d.

And note that Ralph the chaplain has in his custody another entire porthors, value 10s., and two vilas of silver.

Item, in the hall, three tables with two pair of trestles, value of all 16d. One fixed table, value 4d. One washing bason, value 6d. One chair, value 1d.

Item, in the kitchen, two brazen pots, each worth 2s. 2d. Two brazen pans, each worth 8d. One posset cup, worth 8d. One brass pan for frying, worth 6d. Two mortars of stone worth 4d. One gridiron. worth 3d.

Item, in the brewhouse, five vats, worth 16d. each. Five kimmels worth 6d. each. Two bowls worth 8d.

Item, in the bakehouse, four bowls, value of each 5d.

Item, in the pantry, one salt cellar of tin worth 1½d. One tunnel for bread worth 8d.

Item, in the buttery, five barrels each worth 8d. One mazer worth 2s. Two tankards worth 2d. One cask half full of cider, worth 40d. One cask of vinegar value 3s.

Item, in the ox stalls, 24 oxen valued at £9 12s. 0d., price of each 8s. Item, one bull and 11 cows valued at 60s., each worth 5s. Three steers worth 4s. each. Six yearling steers worth 2s. each. Four calves of the preceding year worth 12d. each.

Item, in the sheepfold, 12 score and 1 ewes and they are valued at £18 1s. 6d., value of each 1s. 6d. And 65 hogs and 36 (garta), and they are valued at £8 1s. 8d., each worth 20d. And 123 lambs and they are valued at 61—6d., value of each 6d.

Item, in the piggery, two boars, each worth 2s. Four sows, each worth 16d. Three porkers, each worth 18d. Thirtyfour hoggets, each worth 12d. Twelve sucking pigs, each worth 4d. Item, five geese, each worth 2d. Five ducks, each worth 1½d.

Item, in the carthovel, five carthorses, each worth 8s., and five horses for the plough, each worth 3s., and one mule worth 3s. Two carts bound with iron with all the gears, value 13s. 4d. One wagon worth 4s.

Item, in the granary, 25 qrs., 7 strikes of wheat, worth 4s. per qr.

Item, 28 qrs., 7 strikes of rye, worth 4s. per qr.

Item, 26 qrs. of drage, worth 40d. per qr.

Item, 11½ qrs. of beans worth 40d. per qr.

Item, 26 qrs. 2 strikes of peas, worth 2s. 6d. per qr.

Item, 84 qrs., 2 strikes of oats, worth 2s. per qr.

Item, in the thrashing of all the corn thrashed and winnowed, viz., for the wheat and rye 2½ qrs. worth 4s. per qr., and for the drage 1 qr. worth 40d. per qr., and for beans and peas 8 strikes and one peck of peas, value 2s. 6d. per qr., and for oats 4 qrs. 2 strikes, worth 2s. per qr.

Item, in the grange 10 qrs. of mixed grain, worth 4s. per qr.

Item, there was delivered to the same (Sir John de Leyk) a certain chest with charters, writings and other muniments enclosed sealed.

Item, a certain commission of the Temple of Rothelee concerning the commission made to brother Thomas de Walkyngton for term of his life.

Item, at Babbegrave four oxen valued at 28s. each worth 7s. Three horses, each worth 2s. One plough with gears, worth 10d.

Item, at Gaddesby, two tables with trestles, worth 8d. One form worth 1d. One chair, worth 1d. One brass pan worth 2d. One Tripod worth 1d. Item, four oxen worth 8s. each. Five horses worth 2s. 6d. each. One colt worth 12d. Five geese valued at 10d. One cart bound with iron, value 3s., and another worth 12d. Two ploughs with all the gears, worth 18d. for the two.

In the granary at Gaddesby and Babbegrave 30 qrs., 7 strikes of wheat, and 35 qrs., 3 strikes of peas, worth 2s. per qr., and 12 qrs. of drage, worth 3s. per qr.

N.B. This is the complete record.

II.—THE DESCENT OF THE MANOR

By George Farnham, F.S.A.

This article is a continuation of the series of histories of the manors of Leicestershire which was commenced in the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society last year. The selection of Rothley is due to the architectural investigations recently made by Mr. Fosbrooke, F.S.A., at the Temple, Rothley, the ancient preceptory of the Knights Templars and their successors the Knights Hospitallers, parts of which have been incorporated in the existing mansion. To embody in an article of moderate length the whole of the documents connected with the descent of a manor with so many outlying hamlets as Rothley would be impossible, the history of some of them, *e.g.*, Gaddesby, would require complete articles to themselves. The most that can be done in the allotted space is to give a general sketch of the descent of the manor based on the original deeds and leave the story of the hamlets comprised in the soke to future occasions.

Before going further I wish to express to Mr. Merttens, lord of the manor of Rothley, my grateful appreciation of his liberality in allowing me to have free access to the large number of documents in his possession, my thanks are also due to his resident agent Mr. Galloway, for giving me every help in his power for inspecting the documents and much friendly assistance.

The history of the manor and soke of Rothley has been treated at considerable length by Mr. Nichols in his history of Leicestershire and much of what follows here must necessarily be repetition, since both accounts are largely drawn from the same sources. Nichols, however, does not appear to have used the Rothley documents to the extent which we might have expected considering his friendship with Mr. Babington, the owner, otherwise he would have avoided the inaccuracies of saying that Humphrey Babington, who died in 1544, was lord of the manor and owner of Rothley, thus confusing him with his son Thomas Babington and his grandson Humphrey Babington, to whom Sir

Ambrose Cave, kt., conveyed Rothley in 1565; also of calling Henry Cartwright, to whom the manor house and demesne lands were granted by the Crown in 1543, by the incorrect Christian name of Edward—mistakes which, coming from so high an authority, have been copied by subsequent writers.

The word “Soke” is explained by Nichols to mean the power of administering justice as also the circuit of a liberty, franchise, or local privileged jurisdiction, and therefore the Saxons frequently called by that name those parts or members of large manors which belonged to, or were disjoined from, the principal or capital seat of the manor.

The latter part of this explanation of the term “Soke” agrees well with the manorial position of Rothley, of which manor the lord, at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, held rights in no less than 22 outlying hamlets, which number is reduced to 14 in an old Customary among the Rothley documents of a date about 1273 and is further reduced to 12 in a statement of the customs of the manor set forth by Samuel Heyrick, steward of the manor, in 1730. The names of the hamlets comprised in the soke in 1730 were the south end of Mountsorrell, the towns of Gaddesby, Barsby, South Croxton and Keyham, the lordship of Newbold, the towns of Grimstone, Wartnaby, Wikeham, Cawdewell and part of the town of Saxelby, of which places, he says, the inhabitants regularly appear and do suit and service at the Court Leet and Court Baron held for the manor of Rothley and acknowledge the jurisdiction thereof.

The customs of the manor of Rothley were peculiar, and are recited both in the Customary of 1273 and in other Rothley documents. The date of this Customary is open to question, it is possibly not entirely of one date, but among the list of tenants paying “foreign rents” occurs the name of Peter Nevill of Allexton, who is credited with a payment of 3 shillings yearly for his tenement in Allexton. Now in the year 1273 Peter Nevill made over to his son Theobald Nevill his manor of Allexton with all the lands he held there of the soke of Rothley, for which Peter had paid 3 shillings yearly. [Miscellaneous inquisitions No. 984.] The date therefore of this Customary cannot be later than 1273.

The Customary states, *inter alia*, that if anyone wishes to grant or sell his land or part with it to anyone within the soke it

is fully lawful for him, but by no means outside the soke, and whenever he grants it, it is proper that the gift be made and seisin delivered in full Court [*i.e.*, the manor Court] and then the form of the grant shall be enrolled on the Court roll. This is explained by Samuel Heyrick, in 1730, to mean that every foreigner, that is to say every person who has no estate within the manor aforesaid and purchases any messuages, lands or hereditaments within the said manor of Rothley pays unto the lord of the manor one shilling in every pound for the purchase money according to ancient custom and thereupon becomes a Sokesman and is exempt from the payment of poundage for any later purchase he may make. No poundage is paid to the lord of the manor by any person admitted to lands which are settled upon or devised to him by Will or to which he is become heir. After a person's admittance to an estate under settlement, Will or as heir at law, as aforesaid, the lord of the said manor is not entitled to poundage out of the purchase money for any future estate. Each person is admitted to every estate that vests in him before the steward, bailiff and suitors of the manor of Rothley, and takes an oath in their presence, and which is administered by the Steward, to bear true fealty to the lord of the manor in doing and performing all rents and services for the estate then vested in him which he holds of the said lord, and the admittance of every person is enrolled by the steward. Every Sokesman is entitled to a charter or certificate which is granted him by, and is under the hand and seal of, the steward of the said manor, by virtue of which the said Sokesman is (as being tenant of lands in ancient demesne) exempt from the payment of tolls in all markets and fairs within the Kingdom of England. Recoveries are suffered of estates within the manor of Rothley before the steward, bailiff and suitors by virtue of a writ of right close, and any fine or recovery levied or suffered in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster of lands within the manor of Rothley may be reversed by a writ of Disceit.

N.B.—This exemption from payment of tolls and the right to have suits concerning land tried in the manor court only and not in the King's court are among the peculiarities attaching to tenants holding ancient demesne of the Crown, that is to say, tenants of lands held by King Edward the Confessor and then by King William I. That the tenants of the manor of Rothley so

held their lands is proved by the opening sentences of the Domesday Survey for Rothley. "The King [William I.] holds Rodolei [Rothley]. King Edward [the Confessor] held it."

Another peculiarity among the customs at Rothley relates to the succession to lands in the manor. The Customary says: "If any man of the Soke having a wife have by her several sons or daughters and himself die, the land is partible between the same sons or daughters, but by no means between a son and a daughter, and if there be only one son and many daughters the son shall have the whole. And be it known that whenever the husband dies, whether he have sons or daughters or not, the wife shall have the whole land for her life unless she takes a husband. And if she takes a husband then she shall be dowered with a third part and the sons or daughters shall share the land."

Mr. Samuel Heyrick, in 1730, gives this rendering of the above "If a man die seised of lands within the Manor of Rothley, no settlement having been made to the contrary, his widow shall hold and enjoy all the lands whereof he died seised during her widowhood. If a man die seised of an estate within the said manor having made no settlement to the contrary or disposition thereof by Will, the same shall not descend to his eldest son but all his sons shall equally inherit in Gavelkind."

Respecting the growth of the custom of primogeniture, Medley, in his English Constitutional History, page 33 and following pages, says, that under the Anglo-Saxons the land of almost all those who ultimately held as tenants in socage was divided according to the dictates of natural justice, equally among all the sons, but under the Norman Kings when tenants by military service occupied by far the largest portion of the English soil, a diminution of the holding might mean an inability not only to discharge the requisite duty (and all military service in England was service to the Crown) but also to pay necessary feudal dues. There seems little doubt that primogenitary succession was in the first instance enforced from above; its denial of the dictates of natural justice made it unpopular with the land holding classes; its simplicity as a working rule commended it strongly to the royal officials. So rapidly did the rule spread that even the holdings of many among the unfree villein tenants had ceased to be partible, the

descent being regulated by some custom of inheritance enforced by the manorial court, not always in favour of the succession of the eldest son, but possibly of the youngest son.

N.B.—It is perhaps difficult for the ordinary reader to remember the elementary fact that every holder of land was a tenant, that is to say, he held his land either directly of the King or of some intermediate overlord who held mediately or immediately of the King (there may have been two or more intermediaries.) All tenants held by the due performance of certain services. The customs and laws of the manor courts were constantly, as time went on, being modified by new enactments passed by the Crown and Parliament, and by the increasing scope of the King's Courts which gradually absorbed much of the business formerly transacted in the manor court.

We have already learnt that in 1086 the king held Rothley, and in the Leicestershire Survey of 1124/9 the king still held it. We hear nothing further concerning the manor until about 1150 when king Stephen granted the manor to Ranulph, earl of Chester, who seems to have taken the precaution of having this grant confirmed by Henry II. before his accession to the throne. Whether in consequence of some act of rebellion or from other cause the manor of Rothley soon reverted to the king, who made occasional grants of the manor, or parts of it, to various persons, which grants appear to have been temporary, the only one of these grantees who is of special interest to us is John de Harcourt, to whom in the first year of his reign [1199] King John granted a part of the manor. This grant being “£35 of land in Roleia [Rothley] and the soke of Roleia to John de Harcourt for his homage and service, to hold to John de Harcourt and his heirs of the king and his heirs by a service of one knight's fee.” This was confirmed 26 May, 1203. [See Charter rolls]. The reason why John de Harcourt interests us is because it was owing to him that the Templars first obtained any interest in the manor of Rothley. John de Harcourt, however, did not have undisturbed possession, for we find in the Close roll of 28, October 1216, 1 Henry III., that the sheriff of co. Leicester was commanded to cause John de Harcourt to be reseised of his manor of Role [Rothley] of which he was disseised because We ordered that Our demesnes should be seized into Our hand.

John de Harcourt died while with the crusading army at Damietta in or about 1221, and just before his death he bequeathed by Will £10 of land in Rothley to the brethren of the Order of the Temple. This land was situated in Baggrave in the manor of Rothley, for in Testa de Nevill fo. 405, is the following entry "The master of the Knights of the Temple holds 15 virgates (about 450 acres) of land in Babbegrave and had entry by John de Harcourt who died in the Holy Land 28 years ago.

(No account of the Knights Templars is necessary here as Mr. Fosbrooke has given one in his article on the preceptory.)

In consequence of this bequest the Templars applied to the Crown for a confirmation of the grant made to them in John de Harcourt's Will. The answer of the Crown was that "as to the £10 of land which the brethren of the Knights Templars of Solomon ask Us to confirm to them from the Will of John de Harcourt, of the lands which were of the said John in Roile, We grant them the custody of these lands until we have provided for them in escheats [forfeited lands] or in other ways to the value of the said £10 of land. The sheriff of co. Leicester is therefore commanded to deliver seisin to the said Knights" [Patent roll, 6 May, 1227.]

On 1 Feb., 1231, the king granted by charter to the men of the town of Roel [Rothley] that they might hold the said town with the demesne wood and the mill of the said town at fee farm, paying therefor every year the due and ancient rent of £10 by the hands of the sheriff of co. Leicester, saving to the King the tallage of the said town; and the said men shall have the essarts [*i.e.*, land brought into cultivation from the waste] in the said town which they previously held from the King for 22 shillings a year, paying therefor yearly by the hands of the sheriff 22 shillings.

It is difficult to understand why this grant to the men of Rothley was ever made, it was only temporary, but with regard to the essarts it is evident that improvements by bringing into cultivation land from the waste of the manor had been in progress for some years—as far back as the 7th year of King John 1205/6, we learn from the Pipe roll "that the men of Roleia and the men of Munsorel rendered account of 40 marks, to be paid to the

exchequer for having licence to essart the woods which are between the watercourse of Langeclif and the highway which goes from Role to the vill of Munsorel, so that the moiety of the essart next the vill of Role remains to the men of Role to hold of the King, rendering therefor 20 shillings yearly; and the other moiety of that essart which is next the vill of Munsorel remains to the men of Munsorel, rendering therefor yearly 20 shillings. Of which were paid into the treasury 20 marks by the hands of the men of Munsorel and 10 marks by the hands of the men of Role who owe 10 marks more.

The sheriff of co. Leicester Hugh de Chaucumbe owes 10 shillings from the men of Role for the said essart for half-a-year and 10 shillings from the men of Munsorel for half-a-year."

The essarted land was evidently between Rothley and Mountsorrel and was to be divided between the men of the two places. It is interesting to note that during the troublous times of King John the country round Rothley and Mountsorrel was sufficiently settled for these improvements and additions to the land already under cultivation to be made by the inhabitants themselves. On 21 April, 1231, the King by a charter gave to the abbot and convent of St. John the Evangelist of Croxton, in frank almoin, 20 shillings of rent which the men of Muntford pay yearly to the King at the exchequer for essarts made in the fields of Roel [Rothley].

Muntford is probably a mistake for Mountsorrel. Woodthorpe near Loughborough was formerly known as Thorpe Muntford but had no connection with Rothley.

On 6 July, 1231, the King gave to St. Mary and to the master and brethren of the Temple, to whom the King has entrusted his body for burial after his mortal end, the King's part of the manor of Roel [Rothley] with the advowson of the church there, in frank almoin,* with all the liberties and customs possessed by the said master and brethren under the charters previously granted to them [Calendar of Charter rolls I., p. 135].

This is the first definite grant of the manor of Rothley to the Templars and it was accompanied by a royal command enrolled on the Patent roll on the following day 7 July, 1231, addressed to the freemen and others holding in that portion which the King

*Free alms, *i.e.*, freed from secular services to the donor.

had in the manor of Rothley "Know ye that We have given, granted and confirmed to the master and brethren of the Knights of the Temple of Solomon of Jerusalem all that part which We hold in the manor of Role with appurtenances, to have and to hold of Us and our heirs for ever, in free and perpetual alms, as is more fully contained in Our charter which We have made to them. Therefore We command you that for the future you be intendant and answerable to the said Knights as in times past you were to Us."

Although there is no specific mention of any of the outlying hamlets in the above grant, it is quite evident that they were included, for we read on the Close roll of 14 January, 1232, that the King has learned by inquisition that the land which William de Serland held of the King's bail in Barsby, Gaddesby and Croxton is part of the manor of Rothley which the brethren of the Temple in England hold of the King's gift, therefore the sheriff of co. Leicester is commanded to cause the said brethren to have full seisin of all the aforesaid land without delay.

On the Close roll of 16 March, 1233, the King informs the barons of the exchequer that he has given to the aforesaid abbey of Croxton 48 shillings of yearly rents from Twyford, 10s. 8d. from Skeffington, 26 pence from Tilton and 20 shillings which the men of Role used to pay yearly to the exchequer for the essarts in the fields of Role and a further 22 shillings yearly from the same men for the essarts at Role.

By this and the former grant of 21 April, 1231, Henry III. had granted to Croxton Abbey all the rents arising from the essarts lately made by the men of Rothley. These grants were probably acts of filial piety because King John's bowels were buried at Croxton Abbey.

It seems probable that the Templars were experiencing some difficulty with the men of Rothley in taking possession of their newly acquired manor and in enforcing the services due from the tenants of the manor to the master, for on the Close roll of 9 September, 1234, the King sent the following command to the sheriff of co. Leicester "Since We have learned by the inquisition which We commanded you to make and which you have sent to Us, that King Henry II., Our grandfather, in his time, and in the times of the other Kings of England, Our

ancestors had two carucates of land in demesne [240 acres] and 118s. of assized [fixed] rents in Roel [Rothley] besides the wood and mill of the same town, and that the men of the town reaped in common all the King's corn for one meal daily and carried with the King's carts his corn to his granges ; and that the men of the said town were customary tenants [held their land by the custom of the manor] and that King Henry II., Our grandfather, took an aid from them at his pleasure ; and that the men of Roel held a certain essart for which they used to render Us 22s., which they held by Our charter and which they restored to Us [this refers to the grant of 1, February, 1231, the restoration was probably compulsory] We command you that you diligently enquire who holds the said two carucates of land and the said 118s. of rent together with the said wood and mill, and as to that essart that you at once give full seisin thereof to the master and brethren of the Knights of the Temple in England, to whom we have given the manor of Roel, with our body for burial, and on Our behalf you are to enjoin and firmly command the said men of Roel that for the future they do to the said master and brethren the same customs which they were accustomed to do to King Henry II., and to the other Our predecessors, Kings of England, for as long as the manor of Roel was in the hands of those Kings and before We gave that manor to the said master and brethren."

In spite of all these commands it was considered necessary for the security of the Templars that they should have a new grant of the Manor of Rothley, possibly because in the former grant there was no specific mention of the two carucates of demesne land or 118s. of rents of assize or the wood, mill and essarts which the King had previously given to the inhabitants of Rothley at fee farm and which, as he is pleased to phrase it, the inhabitants had rendered to him again, so on 8 August, 1235, the King by charter granted to St. Mary and to the master and brethren of the Order of the Temple, the manor of Roeleg [Rothley], with the advowson of the church there, including two carucates of land in demesne and 118 shillings of assized rents, with the wood, mill and essarts, for which latter the said master and brethren shall render to the abbot and convent of Croxton 22s. yearly, as the men of the said manor used to render for the said essarts while they held the manor at fee farm To hold the

said manor, etc., etc., in frank almoin, with all the liberties and free customs that have been granted to them or shall be granted to them in their lands.

The difficulties with the inhabitants of Rothley continuing, the King on 8 June, 1235, sent a peremptory order to the sheriff of co. Leicester to go in person to Rothley and compel obedience in the following words: "It has been shown to Us, on behalf of the master and brethren of the Knights of the Temple in England, that the men of Roel do not permit them to cultivate that essart for which the said men were formerly accustomed to render to Us 22 shillings by our charter, which they have restored to Us, and of which essart We commanded you to give seisin to the said master and brethren, We therefore command you, firmly enjoining, that you go in your own person to the manor of Roel and cause the said master and brethren to have full seisin of the said essart with the appurtenances, and you will maintain, protect and defend the master and brethren in their seisin of the said essart as also in the other lands and rents of the said manor." [Close roll.]

And on the close roll of 25 November, 1237, the King commanded the barons of the exchequer to enrol the grant of the manor of Rothley to the master and brethren of the Temple of Solomon of Jerusalem.

This order to the barons of the exchequer finishes the story of the royal grant of the manor of Rothley to the Knights of the Temple, who from this time were in full enjoyment of whatever the King could grant them in the manor and soke of Rothley—. Having taken possession of their property the Templars were now in a position to build their chapel and such domestic buildings as were necessary for their occupation.

The Templars received a charter of confirmation from King Edward I. [Calendar of Patent rolls 1272-81, p. 159] "that they may continue to hold the church of the manor of Rothelegh, with the chapels thereto belonging, for pittance for the brethren at Acre, the manor of Rothelegh with the advowson of the said church and chapels having been granted to them by King Henry III. in frank almoin, but the King for divers reasons having a right in the said advowson."

The schedule of the chapels is missing on the Patent roll, but is stated by Mr. G. T. Clark, F.S.A., to have consisted of the

chapels of Gaddesby, Keyham, Grimstone, Wartnaby, Cawdewell and Wykeham.

In 1285, the master of the Knights Templars, as lord of the manor of Rothley, obtained a grant of the privilege of having a weekly market on Monday at his manor of Rothley, co. Leicester, and of a yearly fair there on the vigil, feast and morrow of St. Barnabas [June 11] [Calendar of Charter rolls].

The Templars subsequently petitioned the crown for leave to transfer the market and fair from Rothley to Gaddesby. This was granted 5 October, 1306, but both market and fair soon fell into disuse [Calendar of Charter rolls 1300-26, p. 71].

Nichols in his article on Rothley, vol iii., p. 947, makes a somewhat unnecessary mistake when he says that in 1293 the Templars' lands in the counties of Leicester and Warwick were seized into the King's hands by the sheriff John de Dene, who was ordered to furnish an inventory of their goods,—and restored to them in 1296. John de Dene was not sheriff until the year 1307/8, in which year the King [Edward II.] did seize the property of the Templars with a view to the suppression of the Order altogether, and Nichols' mistake is the more extraordinary because he continues his version by saying "Annus primus. Rothele. The account of John de Dene." This might have been sufficient to show Nichols that it was in 1307/8, the first year of Edward II., and not in 1293.

The account which John de Dene was ordered to furnish is dated 1308 and is to be found among the Exchequer L.T.R.* rolls, it has been printed among the Rothley documents in the possession of Mr. Merttens, and called "Templars' rolls." It is unnecessary to reproduce here in its entirety the account furnished by John de Dene. It is sufficient to say that he rendered an account of the issues and expenses of the manor of Rothley, and of the hamlets pertaining to the same manor, namely, Barsby, Wartnaby, Grimston, Saxelby, Marfield North and South, Tilton, Somerby, South Croxton, Caldwell, Wykeham, Keyham, Baggrave and Gaddesby, which two last mentioned places had granges where farming operations were carried on by the Templars themselves.

*Lord Treasurer Remembrancer.

John de Dene was succeeded as sheriff of co. Leicester by Geoffrey de Segrave, who died in his year of office, and his executor Stephen de Segrave was ordered to hand over Geoffrey's inventories and accounts of Rothley manor to one John de Leyk.

The suppression of the Order of the Temple was largely due to Philip IV., King of France, who was determined to put an end to the Knights of the Temple if he could. He obtained or compelled the assistance of Pope Clement V., and on 14 September, 1307, he issued orders for the arrest of all the Templars in France on the night of Friday, 13 October, and Pope Clement wrote to King Edward II. to arrest all the Templars in England, who were accordingly seized on 10 January, 1308. Monstrous crimes were charged against the Templars, but the Order was never formally pronounced guilty of them, and the opinion that the charges were false and the confessions were only extracted by torture is supported by the general results of the investigations in almost every country outside France. The wealth of the Order may well have been the motive in suppressing it, and the riches of the Templars were of the greatest assistance to the impoverished exchequer of Edward II. Pope Clement suppressed the whole Order in 1312 and transferred its lands to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, commonly called the Knights Hospitallers.

This papal order was tardily executed in England, the King was in great want of money and many of the barons laid hands on estates belonging to the dissolved Order which they were unwilling to disgorge, so the Knights Hospitallers found that the lands of their former rivals came to them but slowly and in many cases encumbered with charges.

With the suppression of the Order the rule of the Templars at Rothley came to an end. On the 8th December, 1312, the custody of the manor of Rothley, late of the Templars, now in the King's hand, was given to William de Ferrers to hold during pleasure [Patent roll] and on 26 December, 1313, William de Ferrers was commanded to deliver seisin of the manor of Rothley to the Knights Hospitallers, who for the next 227 years were lords of the manor and soke of Rothley.

Among the Rothley deeds is an extent of the Temple of Rothley made at Rothley in the year 1331, before William Erneys,

the King's escheator in counties Warwick and Leicester, and a jury who say on oath that there is there [*i.e.*, Rothley Temple] a capital messuage with two orchards, the fruit and herbage of which are worth 20s. a year; a dovecote worth 6s. 8d. a year; and two mills, one water and one wind, worth 60s. a year.

And there are there three separate pastures worth 20s. yearly, and three pieces of meadow called Est medowe, Preest medowe, with other pieces not measured, worth 100s. a year. And there are there 400 acres by the longer hundred [120] of arable land, of which each acre is worth 6 pence yearly. N.B.—This probably means 4 carucates of land.

Total £12 yearly.

There is there the profit of the park with the underwood worth 40 pence yearly, and a certain fishing in a certain water called Soore [Soar] worth 8s. yearly, and there are there the perquisites of the court which are worth £10 a year.

There are there rents of assize of the free tenants £7 3s. 10½d. yearly, namely at Lady Day 55s. 3½d., at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist 33s. 4d. and at the Nativity of St. Mary 55s. 4½d.

And rents of cottages 30s. yearly, payable by even portions at the feasts of the Annunciation (Mar. 25) and the Nativity of St. Mary (Sept. 8).

They say that the rectory of the church, with its chapels, when it was in the custody of the King for his own uses, for the whole time when the King had the custody of the said messuage [*i.e.*, property] was worth £60 a year.

They say that the Templars throughout the whole of their time, and the custodians of the manor whilst the rectory was in the King's custody, paid to the archdeacon of Leicester for the court of the said church and its chapels 53s. 4d. They say that the said manor was charged in the time of the King and now with finding two chaplains for celebrating divine services in the said manor.

Here follow in the original record the lists of rents paid by the free tenants and others of Gaddesby, Baggrave, Grimston, Saxonby, Wartnaby, Caldwell, Wykeham, Somerby, Marfield, Barsby, Tilton, South Croxton, and Keyham

The total sum of the manor being £128 0s. 1d.

The manor and church of Rothley and the chapels pertaining thereto were confirmed to the Knights Hospitallers by King Edward III. on 16 August, 1330. Nichols says that from this time the Knights Hospitallers continued to enjoy their property without interruption, with additional confirmations by each succeeding King, until their dissolution in 1540.

In the year 1346 the Hospitallers, who had long held one manor in Old Dalby, co. Leicester, increased their property thereby exchanging their manor of Thrumpton, co. Notts., with Sir John Waleys, kt., of Swithland, for his manor of Old Dalby which had descended to Sir John from his grandmother Margaret, daughter and heir of William de Meignell, of Old Dalby.

Nichols [vol. iii., p. 246], under Old Dalby, is not quite accurate in his account of this transaction. The details of this exchange are enrolled on the Coram Rege roll 589, Trinity, 9 Henry IV., 1408, in 9 rex; and are as follows "Sir John Waleys Knight was seised of the manor of Dalby on the Wolds, co. Leicester, and gave the said manor to one John Pawlee, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, in the year 20 Edward III. [1346] to hold to the prior and his successors for ever, the King's licence not having been obtained, which prior and his successors have taken the issues and profits of the said manor from the time of the said gift [exchange] to the use of their house. And the manor is worth £10 yearly according to the true value. Whereupon Walter Grendon, now prior of the said hospital [1408], by his attorney, comes and says that there are two manors of Dalby on the Wolds, namely, one which was of old the possession of the same prior and his predecessors of the hospital from a time when memory does not exist and the other manor which was of Sir John Waleys specified here, and he says that King Edward III., by his letters patent, dated at Westminster 20 March, 1352, in reciting that by the common council of the realm of England it is ordained that it is not lawful for men of religion or others to enter on the fee of anyone so that it come into the dead hand without [the King's] licence and that of the chief lord of whom that thing is immediately held [The Mortmains Acts] nevertheless the said King for the sum of 100 shillings which the prior of the said hospital paid him, granted and gave licence, for himself and his heirs, as much as in him lies, to the said prior

and the brethren of the said hospital that they might give and grant to Sir John Waleys, kt., their manor of Thurmeton [Thrumpton] co. Notts., to hold to the said Sir John and his heirs in exchange for his manor of Dalby on the Wolds, co. Leicester, which manors are not held of the King, and the same King gave licence to the said Sir John Waleys, kt., to assign his manor of Dalby on the Wolds to the said prior and brethren of the said hospital and their successors for ever as in exchange. By virtue of which exchange Sir John Waleys, kt., was seised of the manor of Thurmeton and the prior and brethren of the said hospital of St. John of the manor of Dalby on the Wolds.

N.B.—John Pawley or Paveley was not prior in 1346, but he may have been prior when the 100s. were paid to the King for the licence, or he may have been acting for the prior Philip de Thame. The licence was granted by letters patent 20 March, 1352, and the roll is endorsed that the money has been paid.

Nichols, iii., p. 246, says that in 1407, William son of Hugh de Meynel died. If he means that this William was father of Margaret who married Nicholas Waleys, of Swithland, he is quite wrong; how could Sir John Waleys have exchanged in 1346 a manor which belonged to his ancestor who, according to Nichols, was alive until 1407?

The correct Waleys pedigree runs thus:—

Robert Waleys = Isabel.
the first of the family at | survived her husband.
Swithland.

He died in 1297/8.

Nicholas Waleys = Margaret, dau. and heir of William,
son of Hugh de Meynel, of
Old Dalby.
died vita patris. She overlived Nicholas, but deserted
him in his lifetime for Walter Basset.
de banco roll 129. m 40. A.D. 1299.

Oliver Waleys = Beatrice.

died in 1331.

John Waleys, kt. = Elisabeth.
who made the exchange in 1346.

died in 1363.

John Walcote, kt. = Elisabeth = William Byspham
of Walcote, co. Leic. dau. and heir. 2nd husband.
1st husband. lady of Swithland.
died in 1408.

By the above exchange the Hospitallers possessed both manors in Old Dalby. The manorial history after this date until the end of the 15th century is practically nil. Among the muniments preserved at Rothley are a very few Court rolls, the earliest one dated 12 October, 8 Richard II., 1384, two others of the same reign and some for the years 1443, 1463 and 1464. The business transacted at these Courts was of the usual character and does not call for special mention; pleas of debt, fines for breaches of the peace and for admittance to lands in the manor constitute the larger portion of the entries.

In the latter part of the fifteenth century, if not earlier, the Knights Hospitallers made Old Dalby, and not Rothley, the residence of the Commander or Preceptor and let out to farm the manor house, demesne lands and rectory of Rothley.

In 1524, Thomas Doe wra, prior of the hospital of St. John, and the brethren of the same Order granted to Anthony Babington, esq., the office of supervisor, feodary and governor of all their lands and tenements and of the Courts of Dalby and Rothley, co. Leicester, as also in co. Lincoln. To be held by the said Anthony or his sufficient deputy for the term of Anthony's life, and especially within the soke of Rothley, at a remuneration of 40 shillings yearly, payable June 24, with full powers of doing whatever of right belongs to the said office, especially in the soke of Rothley.

Dated at Clerkenwell in the chapter held 7 July. [Cotton M.S.S., Claudius I., vii., m. 250].

On the same day and year at Clerkenwell the same prior and brethren by their writing indented, with the unanimous assent of their Chapter, granted and to farm let to Andrew Nowell, of Dalby, co. Leicester, gent, their rectory of Rothley with all the tithes, oblations, rights, profits and commodities to the said rectory pertaining in the county of Leicester, as Thomas Pachet lately held and occupied. To hold to the said Andrew Nowell and his assigns for the term of his life, rendering yearly to the prior and his successors or to the preceptor of the preceptory of Dalby and Rothley, for the time being, £12 sterling, payable at the feasts of the Purification B.V. Mary (Feb. 2) and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24) by equal payments,

with a clause of distress and re-entry for non payment of the rent and an undertaking by Andrew Nowell to maintain the property in good repair and to pay to Stephen Gardyner, archdeacon of Leicester, 4 marks yearly for the said rectory under a penalty of £24.

N.B.—The above is taken from the Common Pleas Plea roll, Mich., 25 Henry VIII., m. 636. Middlesex, A.D. 1533, out of a suit in which William Weston, prior of the hospital of St. John, claims the forfeit of £24 and damages 100s. for the default of Andrew Nowell in payment of £4 to the archdeacon of Leicester in the year 1530. Andrew says he did pay him.

The above lease was not the only transaction which Andrew Nowell had with the prior and the Knights Hospitallers, for in Trinity term, 1533, m. 556, the same prior summoned Andrew Nowell to pay him £40 which he owed him on a bond given by Andrew at Nottingham, 26 April, 1529, to the prior and to a certain brother John Babington, Turcopolier and preceptor of Dalby and Rothley, now deceased, to be paid on 24 June next ensuing, still unpaid, by which the prior says he is damaged £10. Andrew called for a reading of the terms of the obligation and they are read in Court, he then asked for leave to imparl, so we do not know what the result was.

The substance of the bond, which is in English and quaintly worded and more quaintly spelt, was that on 5 October, 1527, Andrew had made an agreement by a pair of indentures with the prior and Sir John Babington to leave in as good a condition as when he took it some farm, of which the place is not mentioned but probably Old Dalby, when his lease came to an end, apparently there was a dispute as to the conditions having been fulfilled, hence the claim ; as usual Andrew asks leave to imparl.

A lease for 29 years from June 24, 1529, was granted by the prior of the Hospital of St. John and the brethren of the Order to Humphrey Babington of the site of the manor of Rothley [*i.e.*, the Temple] with the buildings and certain demesne lands pertaining to it at a yearly rent of £6 13s. 4d., all woods, advowsons, profits and perquisites of courts, fines, amercements, etc., were excepted, but the tenant was to be allowed to have firewood and wood for repairs to his hedges, carts and ploughs during his tenancy from the woods of the manor.

Humphrey Babington was the fifth son of Thomas Babington, of Dethick, co. Derby, while Sir John Babington, who had been preceptor of Dalby and Rothley and was dead in 1533, was the second son of Thomas Babington and brother of Humphrey, and it was probably owing to the influence of Sir John that Humphrey obtained his lease in 1529. Anthony Babington, who was appointed supervisor of Dalby and Rothley in 1524, may have been the nephew of both John and Humphrey, but the exact relationship has not so far been traced.

At the time therefore of the dissolution of the Knights Hospitallers in 1540,* Humphrey Babington held an unexpired lease of the manor house, buildings and certain demesne lands at Rothley, of which 18 years still had to run, and Andrew Nowell, of Dalby, held a lease of the rectory of Rothley with the tithes, etc., for life.

Humphrey Babington did not apply to the Crown for a grant of the premises held by him under his lease, they were applied for by a certain Henry Cartwright, of Brickhill Magna, co. Bucks., yeoman, among several other pieces of monastic property in which he was much more closely interested than in Rothley. Henry Cartwright made his bargain with the Crown through the Court of Augmentations, the particulars of which are dated 17 July, 1543; he obtained all that Humphrey Babington held under his lease at Rothley and in addition "Tempylland Wood," containing 20 acres, of which 10 acres of 40 and 60 years growth were really reserved to Humphrey Babington for supplying him with wood under his lease. Henry Cartwright evidently cared nothing about his purchase at Rothley, for by a fine levied in the octaves of Trinity, 1544, he sold to Ambrose Cave, esq., the manor of Rothley and 2 messuages, 6 tofts, a watermill, 500 acres of land, 100 of meadow, 200 of pasture, 40 of wood and 100 of furze and heath and 10 shillings of rent in Rothley, which must certainly have included all his interest in that place. Of course the term "manor of Rothley" is an error, for he had not obtained the manor, only

*The actual date of the dissolution of the Knights Hospitallers seems to have been 7 May, 1540, a bill for their dissolution was introduced into the House of Lords 22 April, 1540, and read a third time on the 29th of the same month. Large pensions were awarded to the Knights, the prior William Weston obtaining a pension of £1000 a year, which he never received because he died in the same year.

the manor house, which is by no means the same thing. The manor of Rothley was still in the hands of the Crown, and Nichols is quite wrong in saying that "Humphrey Babington died in 1544 possessed of the lordship of Rothley." What he did possess was an unexpired lease of the manor house and certain demesne lands, which in 1544 had 14 years still to run, of which Ambrose Cave possessed the reversion. The Crown still held the manor, advowsons, and whatever else had been the property of the Hospitallers, with the reversion to the rectory of Rothley at the death of Andrew Nowell.

Humphrey Babington died 22 November, 1544, and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas Babington, who bought, 18 May, 1549, from John Mershe, of London, esq., and Alice, his wife, one of the daughters and heirs of William Gresham, late citizen and mercer of London, their manor of Cossington, co. Leicester. [Ex. Rothley deeds.]

Nothing further appears to have taken place in the ownership of the manor of Rothley until the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

A Court of Survey of Rothley with its members was held there 28 August, 2 Elizabeth, 1560.

The names of the homage, *i.e.*, jury, the suitors and a list of the assized rents of the tenants of the manor amounting to £7 16s. 4d. are recorded.

The jurors present, *inter alia*, that the manor of Rothley with the appurtenances and all the lands, tenements, dovecot, mills, fishings, pastures, services and other hereditaments demised to Richard Temple, gent, by indenture, (Humphrey Babington's lease expired in June 1558, so this must have been a fresh lease by Cave to Temple, the inclusion of the manor is doubtless an error, but as the grant of the manor to Cave is missing, it is impossible to say the exact date when Cave obtained the manor, if he did obtain it,) except the wood and the advowson of the vicarage and church of Rothley, are worth by the year with all issues beyond expenses £50. And they further say that the rectory of Rothley with all the tithes, oblations and profits, to the said rectory pertaining, demised to Andrew Nowell, gent, under the common seal of the late hospital of St. John of Jerusalem for term of the life of the said Andrew, is worth yearly

with all issues £12. Be it remembered that if the aforesaid Andrew Nowell should die or if the demise shall be void or determined, then it would be worth yearly £20.

Also the jurors present that the manor of Rothley is worth in the rent of the fishing in the water there called Soar from a certain bridge called Cossington bridge as far as Mountsorrell, late in the tenure of the miller of Mountsorrell, by the year 6s. 8d.

And in the separate wood there containing 20 acres by estimation and more, for every sale and at the age of 30 years every acre of it is worth 46s. 8d.

If an alienation be made to a stranger of any lands or tenements in Rothley without the lord's licence the Fine for such alienation shall be arbitrable between the lord and the tenant.

The lord of Rothley hath within the lordship there Court and view of Frankpledge, waifs and strays, felon's goods, and chattels of men outlawed, attainted or fled, with the correction of all sorts of victuallers. The lord hath also probate of Wills, return of writs, and he is coroner and almoner within the said lordship and within the Soke.

The lord of Rothley is patron of the church of Rothley, giveth the advowson of the vicarage at every vacation or voidance.

Sum total of the rents within the lordship of Rothley according to the said recognition of the tenants is by the year £71 15s. 9½d.

Examined by me Michael Purefey. Except the value of the woods, perquisites of court, customs and works of the tenants aforesaid, the liberties and advowsons aforesaid which are not extended nor valued.

[Endorsed] Rothley. A court of survey for Sir Ambrose Cave in Elizabeth 2.

This survey of the manor of Rothley was doubtless made by Ambrose Cave for the express purpose of further purchases by him from the Crown of such portions of the manor as he had not already obtained from Henry Cartwright, some of which were granted 10 January, 3 Elizabeth, to Brian Cave and Edward Williams, and were purchased from them by Ambrose Cave on 16

May, 3 Elizabeth, 1561. And on 14 April, 7 Elizabeth, 1565, Sir Ambrose Cave, then chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, had licence from the Crown to alienate his manor of Rothley with all its rights, members and appurtenances, and also all and singular his messuages, mills, houses, buildings, lands, tenements, meadows, woods, rents, reversions, services, courts leet, views of frankpledge and hereditaments whatsoever situate, lying and being in the town and fields of Rothley held of the Crown in chief to Thomas Babington, esquire, and Humphrey Babington, gent, son and heir of the said Thomas, To have and to hold to the same Thomas and Humphrey, their heirs and assigns for ever of Us and Our heirs and successors by the services therefore due and of right accustomed, and We have given by these presents special licence to the same Thomas and Humphrey that they may be able to receive and hold the aforesaid manor, etc., to them, their heirs and assigns. [Patent roll, 7 Elizabeth, part 6, m. 25.]

The grant of the manor of Rothley to Sir Ambrose Cave which should have come in before the above licence is however not among the Rothley documents, so we must, in view of the royal licence to alienate, presume that the queen had granted the manor of Rothley to Sir Ambrose Cave before the licence for alienation was promulgated.

In consequence of the licence for alienation having been granted, Sir Ambrose Cave, on 24 June, 1565, conveyed to the said Thomas Babington, esqr., [described as of Cossington, co. Leicester,] and to Humphrey, son and heir apparent of the same Thomas, all that his manor of Rothley as quoted in the licence, and also the several purchases which Sir Ambrose had made, namely a yearly rent of £7 3s. 10d. and all services as well of free tenants as of customary tenants in Rothley, also his rectory and church of Rothley with its rights, members and appurtenances, together with all tithes, oblations, emoluments and profits and commodities to the same rectory appertaining, in as full and ample a manner as Sir Ambrose held them. And lastly Sir Ambrose appointed Thomas Duport and Edward Vincent, esquires, as his attorneys to deliver full and peaceful possession of the manor, etc., to Thomas Babington and Humphrey Babington who took possession of the manor of Rothley, etc., on 7 December, 1565, in

the presence of Richard Temple, gent, Gawen Phillips and many others.

This completes the story of the transfer of the manor and Soke of Rothley from the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem through the Crown to the family of Babington, who held the manor and soke until 1846 when at the court held for the manor and soke on 5 June, James Parker appears as lord.

Vice chancellor Sir James Parker had married 17 June, 1829, Mary, one of the daughters of Thomas Babington, of Rothley Temple, lord of the manor and soke of Rothley, M.P. for Leicester from 1800 to 1818, born 18 Dec., 1758, died 21 Nov., 1837.

Sir James Parker died 13 August, 1852, and Mary, his wife, died 20 July, 1858.

Sir James Parker purchased Rothley Temple and the manor of Rothley from the Babington family in 1845 ; by his wife Mary he had a son Harry Rainy Parker who succeeded to the manor of Rothley, which manor he sold in 1893 to Frederick Merttens, esq., who held his first court for the manor and soke of Rothley 27 July, 1893, and is the present lord of the manor.

This concludes the sketch of the descent of the manor of Rothley and of such parts of the hamlets as were included in the manor of Rothley. I have printed in an appendix the Domesday return for Rothley, also the interesting records relating to Rothley and the hamlets comprised in the soke enrolled on the *de banc* roll of Easter term, 13 Edward I. [1285] and on a Patent roll dated 5 February, 51 Edward III. [1377]. Out of these and other Rothley documents arise several debatable points which cannot be entered upon here, such as whether the composition of 1245 altered the tenure of ancient demesne, and what was the exact definition of a "foreigner" within the custom of the manor, and when did the fine for admittance for a "foreigner" become fixed at 1/- in the £ of the purchase money ? I have not touched the subject of the peculiar exempt jurisdiction of the lord of the manor in matters ecclesiastical as it properly belongs to Mr. Watts' article on the church.

The method adopted for summoning and holding Courts Leet and Baron for the manor and soke of Rothley can be read at length in Hardy's *Literary Remains*, published by J. Gough Nichols, F.S.A., in 1852, p. 430 and following pages and will be found of interest to those who study the history of manor Courts.

LIST OF MASTERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE TEMPLE.

Emericus de St. Maur. *Liberate* roll. 2 Nov. 1200, 2 John.
Close roll. 4 Sept. 1216, 18 John.

Alan Martel. *Close* roll, 15 April, 1220, 4 Henry III.
Charter roll. I., p. 1. 20 Jan. 1227, 11 Henry III.

Robert de Saunford. *Close* roll. 1233.
Charter roll. I., p. 331. 2 June, 1248, 32 Henry III.

Rocelin. *Charter* roll. I., p. 415. 8 Jan. 1253, 37 Henry III.

Ainadeus de Morestell. *Charter* roll. II., p. 19. 20 July, 1259,
43 Henry III.

Imbert. *Patent* roll per *inspeximus*, 1269.

Defendant of common of pasture in Rothley in Parkolde
and Assart Meadow and Le Mede, Fine. Mich.
55 Henry III., A.D. 1270.

Guy de Foresta. *de banco* roll, 13 Edward I., 1272. *Close* roll.
1274.

Robert de Turvill. *Close* roll. 1276. *Close* roll. 10 July, 1293,
late master.

Guy de Foresta. *Dukery Records*, p. 260. *Woolley Charter*,
British Museum, I., 52. Feast of St. Barnabas A.D.
1292.

Patent roll, 4 Nov., 1293.

Brian de Jay. 11 May, 1297. *Lincoln. Reg.* I., fo. 289.

William de la More. *Close* roll. 13 Sept. 1302.

LIST OF PRIORS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ORDER OF
ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND.

Garnerius de Neapoli, prior before 1162. [Dugdale's *Monasticon* VI., part 2, p. 799.]
Charter dated 1189. [Jeayes' *Derbyshire charters* No. 1539, p. 191.]

Richard de Turk. After 1190. [Dugdale's *Monasticon*].

Ralph de Dina. [More probably Diva.] [ibid].

Alan. He was consecrated bishop of Bangor 16 April, 1195. [ibid].

Gilbert de Vere. 1195. [ibid].

Hugh de Alneto. [ibid].

Robert de Thesaurarius. Charter roll. 18 May, 5 John, 1203.

William de Villers. Charter roll. 18 May, 10 John, 1208.

Robert. Fine, Bedford. 1 Dec., 11 John, 1209.
Patent roll. 1 Jan., 15 John, 1214.

Hugh. Patent roll. 3 Sept., 18 John, 1216.

Robert de Dive. Fine, Mich., 7 Henry III., 1222, defendant of a knight's fee in Heather.
Charter roll. 8 April, 14 Henry III., 1230.

Thierry de Nussa. Patent roll. 10 July, 19 Henry III., 1235.
Presented Walter de Swavesheia to church of Ravenestorp, 1247-8. [Cant. and York Soc. rolls of Grosseteste p. 236].

Robert de Manneby. Was prior in 1251. [Dugdale's *Monasticon*]

Elias de Smetheton. Patent roll. 11 Jan., 37 Henry III., 1253.
[Admission as prior].

Fine, Mich., 39 Henry III., 1255. [Warrants a messuage in Loughborough].

Roger de Vere. Charter roll, 14 Nov., 49 Henry III. 1264.
Charter roll, 25 May, 56 Henry III., 1272.

Joseph de Chaucey. Sometime prior. Close roll, 7 Feb., 12 Edward I., 1284.

He occurs in 1274 and 1280. [Dugdale's *Monasticon*.]

William de Henleye. Close roll, 2 Aug., 13 Edward I., 1285.

Newcourt gives him as prior 10 Feb., 9 Edward I., 1280-1.

Charter roll, 6 May, 18 Edward I., 1290.

Peter de Haghama. Close roll, 27 Nov., 22 Edward I., 1293.

Patent roll, 28 June, 25 Edward I., 1297.

William de Tothale. Patent roll, 15 Oct., 25 Edward I., 1297.

De Banco roll, Mich., 8 Edward II., 1314. Newcourt says he died 12 Oct., 1318.

Richard de Paveley. Calendar of Ancient Deeds III., p. 115, No. 4877, 10 Feb., 1320.

Thomas le Archer or Larcher. He presented to church of St. Madron, V., Cornwall in June 1323 [Exeter Reg. Stapledon, 255].

Died 28 Aug., 1329. [Dugdale's *Monasticon*.]

Leonard de Tibertis. Close roll, 4 Sep., 4 Edward III., 1330. [Admitted as prior].

He presented to Brendon, R., Devon, Sept., 1333. [Exeter Reg. Grandisson, 1275].

Philip de Thame. He presented to Halwill, R. Devon, Feb., 1335-6. [ibid, 1311.]

Close roll, 7 Oct., 27 Edward III., 1353.

John de Paveley. Close roll, 7 Oct., 27 Edward III., 1353.

He presented to St. Cleer, V., April 1362 and to St. Madron, V., July 1363. [Exeter Reg. Grandisson, 1482, 1493].

Robert de Hales. Close roll, 18 June, 47 Edward III., 1373.

[ibid]. 2 Feb., 4 Richard II., 1381.

John de Radington. Close roll, 23 Sept., 6 Richard II., 1382.

[Did fealty to the king].

De Banco roll 498, Trin. 8-9 Richard II., 1385, m. 132.

Walter Grendon. He presented to St. Ive, V., Aug., 1401.

[Exeter Reg. Stafford, 202]. Occurs in 1416. [Dugdale's *Monasticon*].

William Hulles. Occurs in 1417. [Dugdale's *Monasticon*.]

Occurs in 1431. [Ibid.]

Robert Mallory. Made prior in 1433. [V.C.H., Warwickshire II., p. 101].

De Banco roll, 700, Hil., 14 Henry VI., 1436, m. 233.

Robert Botiller. De Banco roll 746, Trin., 25 Henry VI., 1447, m. 167 d.

Rothley Court roll, 27 Dec., 3 Edward IV., 1463.

John Langstrother. Became prior 9 March, 1469.

Taken prisoner at battle of Tewkesbury and beheaded in 1471. [V.C.H., Warwickshire II., p. 101.]

William Tournay. He presented to Standon, Herts., Jan. 1471-2. [Newcourt I., 887.]

Ditto, ditto Oct., 1473. [ibid.]

Robert Multon or Molton. De Banco roll 852, Mich., 14 Edward IV., 1474, m. 253.

John Weston. Rothley Court roll 15 Dec., 17 Edward IV., 1477.

John Kendall. Occurs in 1491. [Dugdale's Monasticon.]

He presented to Roydon, Essex, Nov. 1499. [Newcourt II., 508.] Dugdale says he died in Nov. 1501.

Thomas Doewra. 1 May, 1502. [Dugdale's Monasticon.]

Rothley Court Roll, July, 18 Henry VIII., 1526.

William Weston. Rothley Court roll, 17 March, 19 Henry VIII., 1528.

Died 7 May, 1540.

Sir Thomas Tresham was made prior upon the refounding of the Order, 30 Nov., 1557.

THE LORDS OF THE MANOR OF ROTHLEY FROM THE YEAR 1565.

Thomas Babington, died 27 Oct., 1567. He married Eleanor, daughter of Richard Humfrey, of Barton Segrave, co. Northants.

Humphrey Babington, son of Thomas, died 7 June, 1611. He married Margaret, daughter of Francis Cave, of Baggrave, co. Leicester.

Thomas Babington, son of Humphrey, died 17 Sept., 1645. He married Katherine, daughter of Humphrey Kendall, of Smythesby.

Matthew Babington, son of Thomas, died 1669, aged 57. He married Anne, daughter of Sampson Hopkins, of Stoke, by Coventry.

Thomas Babington, son of Matthew, died 14 April, 1708, aged 73. He married, 1st Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Jesson, kt., of Coventry; 2nd, Margaret, daughter of Henry Hall, of Gretford, co. Lincoln.

Thomas Babington, son of Thomas and Margaret, died 31 July, 1745, aged 63. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Keeling, of London.

Thomas Babington, son of Thomas, died 1776, aged 61. He married Lydia, daughter of the Rev. Joseph Cardale, vicar of Hinckley, co. Leicester.

Thomas Babington, son of Thomas, died 21 Nov., 1837, aged 78. He married Jean, daughter of the Rev. John Macaulay, minister of Cardross, co. Dumbarton.

Thomas Gisborne Babington, son of Thomas, born 24 July, 1788. He sold the manor of Rothley and the estate of Rothley Temple to his brother in law, Sir James Parker and Mary his wife, sister of the same Thomas Gisborne Babington.

Vice chancellor Sir James Parker, married June, 1829, Mary, daughter of Thomas Babington and sister of Thomas Gisborne Babington. Sir James purchased the manor of Rothley and the estate of Rothley Temple in 1845, and died 13 August, 1852. Mary, his widow, died 20 July, 1858.

Harry Rainy Parker, son of James and Mary, born 27 June, 1837, married 24 June, 1869, Francis Emily Jane, daughter of Colonel Kitchener and sister of Earl Kitchener of Khartoum. Mr. Parker sold the manor of Rothley and the estate of Rothley Temple to Frederick Merttens, esquire, in 1893, who is the present lord of the manor.

APPENDIX.

DOMESDAY BOOK, A.D., 1086.

THE KING'S LAND.

The King holds Rodolei [Rothley]. King Edward held it. There are five carucates [600 acres] of land.

In demesne there are 2 of these carucates and there are 2 ploughs; and 29 villeins with a priest and 18 bordars have 6 ploughs. There is a mill rendering 4 shillings and 37 acres of meadow. Demesne woodland 1 league in length and half a league in breadth. Woodland of the villeins 4 furlongs in length and 3 furlongs in breadth. This vill is worth 62 shillings yearly.

To this manor belong the following members :—

In Adelachestone [Allexton] there are 6 bovates of land. It is waste.

In Barnesbi [Barsby], 5 carucates of land, less 1 bovate, and 15 acres of meadow.

In Segrave [Seagrave], 6 carucates of land and meadow 3 furlongs in length and 1½ furlongs in breadth.

In Seglebi [Sileby], 2 carucates of land and 2 bovates and 10 acres of meadow.

In Tochebi [Tugby], 6 carucates of land and 10 acres of meadow. Woodland 2 furlongs in length and one furlong in breadth.

In Sciftitone [Skeffington], 12 carucates of land and a mill rendering 12 pence. Woodland 3 furlongs in length and 2 furlongs in breadth.

In Merdefelde [Marefield], 3 carucates of land and 8 acres of meadow.

In another Merdefelde [South Marefield], 3 carucates of land and 8 acres of meadow.

In Elstede [Halstead], 3 carucates of land, less 2 bovates, and 1 acre of meadow. Woodland 1 furlong in length and another in breadth.

In Caldewell [Caldwell] and Wiche [Wycomb], 4 carucates of land and 2 mills rendering 2 shillings.

In Tiletone [Tilton], 2 carucates of land and 4 acres of meadow and 5 acres of woodland.

In Osferdedie [Asfordby], 12 carucates of land and 2 mills rendering 8 shillings, and 20 acres of meadow.

In Caiham [Keyham], 4 carucates of land and 8 acres of meadow.

In Wortnodebie [Wartnaby], 6 carucates of land and 10 acres of meadow.

In Tuiuorde [Twyford], 4½ carucates of land and 8 acres of meadow.

In Sumerlidebie [Somerby], 1½ carucates of land and 6 acres of meadow.

In Frisebie [Frisby], 8 carucates of land and 4 acres of meadow and 2 shillings from the third part of the mill.

In Saxelbie [Saxelby], 1 carucate of land and 5 acres of meadow.

In Grimestone [Grimston], 3 carucates of land less 1½ bovates.

In Badegrave [Baggrave], 6 carucates of land, less 3 bovates, and 10 acres of meadow.

In Gadesbie [Gaddesby], 8 carucates of land and 3 bovates and 12 acres of meadow.

In these there are 204 sochmen with 157 villeins and 94 bordars having 82 ploughs, and it renders altogether £31 8s. 1d.

De Banco roll 58, Easter, 13 Edward I., A.D. 1285. m. 34d.

Pleas at Westminster before Thomas de Weland and his fellows justices of the Bench.

LEICESTER. Ralph son of Roger demanded before J. de Vallibus and his fellows, Justices in Eyre, at Leicester on the octaves of St. Michael, 12 Edward I., against Ralph de Warkenetheby the moiety of one messuage and of one bovate of land in Warkenetheby, and against Robert son of Hugh the fourth part of one bovate of land in the same vill as his right by writ de avo. Ralph de Warkenetheby and

Robert come. And thereupon comes the Master of the Knights Templars in England, by his attorney, and says that the said tenements are within the soke of Rotheleye which is ancient demesne of the king wherein no writ runs except the little writ of right closed. And he says that the said soke is the right of the said Master by the grant of kings of England.

Ralph son of Roger says that the Master ought not to demand his Court, for brother Guy, formerly Master, quit-claimed all tallages and villein customs in these words—

To all the faithful in Christ to whom the present writing shall come, brother Guy de Foresta, Master of the Knights of the Temple in England, and the brethren of the same Order, greeting. Know all of you that whereas a plea was set in motion in the king's Court before the Justices of the Bench in 15 days from St. Michael, 56 Henry III. [1272], between the said Guy and all the free tenants of the soke of the manor of Rothele touching the customs and services which the Master exacted from his tenants who hold of him in the soke aforesaid, except those [tenants] who belong to the vill of Rothele, and wherefore the Master exacted from the said men that they should give to him tallage at the said Master's will, which tallage the said tenants gainsaid to give, because whereas in three weeks from St. John the Baptist, 29 Henry III. [1245], there was a plea between brother Robert of Saunford, Guy's predecessor, then Master, and the men of the soke, and the men granted that they ought to increase their farm [rent] beyond the farm which they were wont to render to the Master, to wit, for each carucate of land which they hold in the soke 3 shillings yearly, and that they ought to come to the view of frankpledge and do snit at the Master's Court in Rothele when anyone is impleaded by writ of right or when there shall be a robber to be judged by afforeement of the Court, as before they were wont to do for all works, tallages and other villein customs, the said Guy and his brethren came by their attorneys, brother Ranulph de Brymegrave and brother Roger de Athlot, and acknowledged the said form of peace, as is contained in the rolls of the Bench, Michaelmas,

56 Henry III. [1272], and granted to the said men and their heirs that they be quit of all tallages and villein customis for ever. These being witnesses—brother Ralph the Chaplain, brother Richard son of John, brother Roger de Alkenye, brother William de Meredene, brother Roger de Athlot, brother Ranulph de Brymesgrave, preceptor of London, and others.

Wherefore they say that it seems to them that the Master is precluded from demanding his Court when it is lawful for the lords of this tenure of ancient demesne to change it by their own deed into a free fee.

The Master says that he does not think that he is repelled by any words contained in the writing whereby he cannot demand his Court, especially as no special mention is made therein whereby it plainly appears that such writs, according to the custom of the manor, are excepted from the said Court from thenceforth. He still says that the writing ought not to be prejudicial to him, for he says that Guy, his successors and he all his time hitherto were in seisin of pleading the said writs according to the custom of the manor. And this the Master is ready to verify as the Court should adjudge.

And the justices, by reason of the grave and frequent plaint of the said Ralph son of Roger, Robert son of Hugh and also of William de Diggeby who sues for the community of the said soke, caused the knights and old men of this county to be assembled, who being required to say the truth thereupon, say on the faith whereby they are bound to the king that the master and all his predecessors in times past and notwithstanding the said writing are and were in seisin of pleading the said writs according to the custom of the manor, and no common writs were issued or ought to run in the said soke. They also say that the men of the said soke ought to do suit at the Master's Court in Rothele when anyone is impleaded there by the king's writ of right or when there shall be a robber to be judged there by afforcement of the Court, in this manner, viz., that the townships which come to the common suit of Court of Rothele from three weeks to three weeks by one man only ought to come

by two men, and those which come by two men should come by four, etc. The knights and old men also say that certain of them were present on the eyre of Gilbert de Preston and saw that the same Gilbert at the petition and challenge of the Master delivered all writs touching the said soke issued in common form to the same Master in full Court. Adjourned to hear their judgment. The parties ask for judgment. And because the said Ralph son of Roger is not able to gainsay that the said tenements are within the soke nor that the soke is of the king's ancient demesne, etc., it is adjudged that Ralph take nothing by his writ, but is in mercy for a false claim, and Ralph and Robert are without a day. And the said Ralph son of Roger may purchase for himself another writ, to wit, a writ of right closed, according to the custom of the manor, if it should seem expedient for him.

Patent Roll, 51 Edward III., m. 37. A.D. 1377.

Of an exemplification.

The King to all to whom, &c., greeting. We have inspected a certain certificate sent to Us into Our chancery by Our command by Our Treasurer and Chamberlain in these words——

Pleas at Westminster in the octaves of St. Michael in the 56th year of King Henry [III., A.D. 1272].

LEICESTER TO WIT; Brother Imbert, Master of the Knights of the Temple in England, was attached before the justices in eyre at Leicester in the octaves of St. Michael in the 53rd year to answer to the men of the soke of the manor of Rothley in respect of the plea wherefore, since a plea had been between brother Robert de Saunford, formerly Master of the Knights of the Temple aforesaid, the predecessor of the said Master, and the said men in the Court of the lord the king before the justices at Westminster respecting the customs and services which the aforesaid Robert was exacting from the men aforesaid for their tenements which they held of him in the soke aforesaid and in that suit between the said brother Robert and his successors and the said men a composition and agreement had been made in the aforesaid Court of the king before the said justices and enrolled before them that for

every carucate of land which the said men hold of him in the soke aforesaid they should increase their farm [rent] beyond the farm which they were accustomed to render to the same Master in respect of the said tenements three shillings yearly for all works, tallages and other customs which the same Master was exacting from them, the aforesaid Imbert distrains the said men to give him tallage for their said tenements contrary to the composition enrolment and grant aforesaid and whereof the said men complain that whereas the said agreement was made before the said justices at Westminster in the 29th year of the reign of the now king [1245] the said Master unjustly distrains them contrary to the agreement, enrolment and grant aforesaid by their oxen, horses, kine, sheep and all their cattle by exacting from them tallage more or less at his will, wherefore they say they are deteriorated and have damage to the value of 500 marks and thus they produce suit, &c. And the Master comes by attorney and defends force and injury, &c. And he well acknowledges that he distrains the said men for the said tallage because he says that the aforesaid Robert de Saunford, his predecessor, never remitted or quit-claimed the said tallage to the said men nor was there any mention made in the agreement between them of any remission of the said tallage, and that this is so he puts himself on the record of the rolls of the Bench of the lord the king. And a day was given them before the justices on the quindene of St. Michael 56 Henry III. and to search the rolls of that term.

And afterwards the rolls of that term were searched wherein was found in these words—

Milo de Crokeston¹ for himself and for the men of the same vill, Walter son of Sweyn of Gidisby for himself and for the men of the same vill, Robert the reeve of Barnesby² for himself and for the men of the same vill, Robert Hareward of Babbygrave³ for himself and for the men of the same vill, Robert Saber of Kayham for himself and for the men of the same vill, Henry the reeve of Tylton for himself and for the men of the same vill, Hugh the reeve of Mardefeud for

¹South Croxton. ²Barsby. ³Baggrave.

himself and for the men of the same vill, Walter Sewar for himself and for the men of the same vill, William the reeve of Somerdyby for himself and for the men of the same vill Robert Fitz Henry of Caldwell for himself and for the men of the same vill, Gilbert son of Matthew of Warkenedby for himself and the men of the same vill, Geoffrey the reeve of Grimston for himself and for the men of the same vill, and Ralph de Fraunceys for himself and for the men of the same [? which] vill of whom they in the place, &c., by writ of the king acknowledge that they ought to increase their farm beyond the farm which they were wont to render to the Master of the Knights of the Temple in England, to wit, for every carucate of land which they hold in the said vills three shillings by the year for all works, tallages and other villein customs which the same Master exacted from them. And that they ought to come to the view of frankpledge and do suit at the Court of the said Master at Rolegh when any one should be there impleaded by writ of the lord the king of right and when a robber was to be adjudged there by the afforcement of the Court. And all those who are of the body [de corpore] of the manor of Rolegh ought to do suit and all other villein customs which before they were wont to do to the same Master, &c.

And we have caused the tenor of the certificate aforesaid at the request of the men of the soke aforesaid to be exemplified by these presents. In witness whereof, &c.

Witness the king at Westminster on the 5th day of February.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ROTHLEY MANOR COURT ROLLS.

ROTHLEY. Court of John Weston, prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, held there 15 December, 17 Edward IV., 1477.

Take of Land.

To this Court came Bartholomew Kyngeston and took of the aforesaid prior all the lands and tenements, meadows, feedings and pastures, with their appurtenances, lying within the vill and

fields of Rothley, called Cheteland, otherwise called Boby rent or Bovy rent and one meadow called Prestinedoe, To have and to hold to the said Bartholomew and his assigns from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel last part before this date until the end of 40 years then next following and fully to be completed, rendering therefor yearly to the said prior and his successors during the term aforesaid at the usual terms 6 shillings of silver of good and lawful money of England, and he did fealty and was admitted tenant.

Rothley.

Court of the said prior held there 4 October in the same year.

To this Court came John Reynold of Thurimeston and took of the said prior in Thurimeston a meadow called Belleholme late in the tenure of John Staunton esquire, to have and to hold to the said John Reynolds, and his assigns from the feast of St. Barnabas the apostle last part until the end of the term of 20 years then next following and fully to be completed, rendering therefor at the feast of St. Barnabas the apostle 33s. 4d. of good and lawful money of England yearly, and if the said rent be in arrear for one month after the due date it shall be well lawful for the prior and his successors or his officers to enter and seize into the hand of the lord and totally expel the said John Reynold from the said land, and he did fealty and was admitted tenant and gives nothing to the lord for a fine on entry.

PRECEPTORY OF DALBY AND ROTHLEY.

Minister's Account.

The account of Thomas Barker, bailiff and receiver of rents and farms there, from the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 16 Henry VII., to the same feast next following 17 Henry VII., to wit, for one whole year—

24 June 1501 to 24 June 1502.

He¹ answers for £8 of the rent of the site of the manor or preceptory of Dalby, together with tithes of every sort in Dalby aforesaid, thus let to Geoffrey Delemere by an indenture dated 24 July, 15 Henry VII.,² to hold from St. John the Baptist's day last part for a term [not given] of years next following. To be paid at the feasts of the Purification B. V. Mary and of St.

¹The bailiff. ²A.D. 1500.

Barnabas by even portions, [the rent of Grymston and Willughby from of old annexed to the manor altogether reserved.]

And for 42s. from Thomas Monke for the rent of the demesne lands at Gaddesby called Temple land and Bradmerholese, so let to him in this year.

And for 26s. 8d. from Henry Willughby, knight, for certain lands in Willughby which he occupies.

And for 66s. 8d. from Nicholas Temple for certain lands at Welysburgh, lately let by common deed.

And for 46s. 8d. from Henry Barker for the manor of Hether¹ with the demesne lands so let to him in this year.

And for 46s. 8d. from Roger Holynghorth for the rent of the manor of Stonesby with the demesne lands so let to him in this year.

And for 40s. from Robert Barbor for the rent of a water mill at Hether called —— so let to Robert in this year.

And for 26s. 8d. from Nicholas Canwell for the rent of the other mill there so let to him in this year.

And for 10s. for the rent of the fishing in the water of Rothley, so let to John Villers, knight, in this year.

And for 50s. from the abbot of Wolston [Owston] for the rent of all pastures and lands in North Merfeld,² so let to him by copy.

Farm of the Meadows and Pastures.

And for 33s. 4d. from the rent of the meadows at Thormasterm,³ so let to Thomas Kyng in this year.

And for 26s. 8d. for the rent of the pasture called Willughby pasture, so let to divers tenants there in this year.

And for 40s. for the rent of the pasture called Byggyngh which lies in the fields of Willughby, so occupied by the vill of Wydmerpoole formerly at 20s. yearly.

He does not answer for the rent of the meadows and pastures called Beaumont lese or for the rent of the pasture called Oldlese or the pasture called Burstallese at Beaumont, the pasture called Belcholme, to wit, for the time of this account, because the said meadows and pastures were granted to the lord the king Edward IV., in exchange for the rectory of the vill of St. Botholph.⁴

¹Heather. ²Marefield. ³Thuraston. ⁴Boston, co. Lincoln.

Rothley.

And for £12 rent of the rectory of Rotheley, so let to Thomas Pachet in this year.

And for £12 rent of the rectory of Gaddesby, so let to Henry Wodde and William Burgh, chaplain, in this year.

And for £6 rent of the rectory of Grymston, so let to the same Henry and William in this year.

And for 66s. 8d. rent of the rectory of Warkeneby, so let to the same Henry and William in this year.

And 66s. 8d. rent of the rectory of Caudwell and Wykeham, so let to John Herpley this year.

And for 6s. of pension from the rectory of Ashby Parva yearly.

And for 6s. 8d. of pension from the rectory of Rawnston yearly.

PRECEPTORY OF DALBY AND ROTHLEY.

Minister's Account.

The value of all and singular the lands and territories to the preceptory aforesaid pertaining or belonging as appeareth by the minister's accounts there at the feast of Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 2 Henry VIII., A.D. 1510.

Rents of assize and at the will of the lord within the fee of Dalby with its members yearly, £47 12s. 11d.

Rent of the demesne lands there yearly, £11 13s. 4d.

Rent of the pastures and meadows there yearly, 60s.

Rent of the mill there yearly, 33s. 4d.

Rent of the rectories there yearly as in the preceding (account), viz., Grymston, £6, Werkeneby, 5 marks, and Cawedwell and Wykham, 5 marks. £12 13s. 4d.

Farm of the brethren there yearly, as in the preceding, £12.

Rents and farm of lands and tenements recovered from Thomas Entwysyll there yearly, 56s. 8d.

Rents and farms of lands and tenements lately bought by the lord from the said Thomas Entwysyll there yearly, £4.

For the common fine there yearly as in preceding, 63s. 1d.

Total, £98 12s. 8d.

Reprises.¹

The fee and wages of John Dygby, kt., 20s. Thomas Villers,

¹i.e., outgoings.

chief steward, 40s. Of the said accountant, 60s., of the understeward 13s. 4d., of Henry Woode, keeper of the lord's wood there, 13s. 4d. To the dean of Leycester, 4s. 4d., and to John Dygby for divers tenements demised at fee farm to the lord, 4s. in all.

The expenses of the steward there yearly, 25s. 6d.

In decay of rent this year, 16s. 8d.

Money depending on divers persons for their rent deducted, 51s. 6d.

Total allowed, £12 7s. 8d.

And so the clear value is £86 5s. 0d. [for the said preceptory].

Rotheley.

Rents of assize and at will of the lord within the fee of Rotheley yearly, £29 11s. 2½d.

Rent of the demesne lands yearly as in preceding, £11 15s. 4d.

Rent of meadow called Beaumontlese (Beaumont Leys) yearly as in preceding, Nil.

Rent of the fishery of the water there yearly as in preceding, 10s.

Rent of the rectories there yearly as in preceding, viz., in Rotheley, £12 and Gaddesby, £12, £24.

Total, £65 6s. 6½d.

Reprises.

The fee of the accountant yearly as in the preceding year, 40s.

Decay or decrease of rent there in this year, 9s. 8d.

Expenses of the steward and others there in this year, 11s. 7d.

Money dependant on divers persons for rent deducted, 4s. 6d.

Sum allocated, 65s. 9d.

And so the clear value is £62 0s. 9½d. [For Rothley only].

Heyther.

Rents of assize and at will of the lord in Heyther yearly, £22 7s. 9½d.

Rent of the demesne lands there yearly as in the preceding (account), viz., Wellesbrugh 66s. 8d., and for the rent of the manor of Heyther 5 marks, £6 13s. 4d.

Farm of the pensions there yearly as in preceding (account), viz., from Asheby 6s., and from Rawnston, 6s. 8d. 12s. 8d.

Increase of rent there yearly as in preceding, 3d.

Total, £33 0s. 8½d.

Reprises.

Fee of the accountant yearly, 26s. 8d.

Decay or decrease of rent in this year, 20s. 10d.

Money depending on divers persons for their rents deducted, 24s. 6d.

Sum allocated, 72s.

And so it is worth clear, £29 8s. 8½d. [For Heather only].

The rectory of the vill of St. Botolph with the hospital of St. John by Skyrbek, is worth at farm yearly in the tenure of Sir Thomas Crawe, £31.

Total, £31.

The sum of all and singular the manors of the preceptory, £227 19s. 10½d.

Reprises.

Fees, wages, decay of rents and all other allocations as particularly set forth above, £19 5s. 5d.

Sum allocated, £19 5s. 5d.

And so it is worth clear, £208 14s. 5½d.

The Copy of the Rental of Thomas Pachet, now being bailly of Rothley and the soke thereto belonging :—

The manor place of the Tempull of Rotheley payeth by the year, £6 13s. 4d.

Item, the water of Rotheley payeth by the year, 10s.

Item, the tythe of Rotheley payeth by the year, £12.

Item, the tythe of Gaddesby payeth by the year, £12.

Gaddesby Chief Rents.

From Everard Derby, 2s. 1d. Elizabeth Derby, 6s. Everard Monke, 20s. William Chamber, 7s. 7d. Thomas Monke, 5s. 4d. Bartholomew Brokesby, 10s. 2d. William Cooke, 3s. William Brokesby, for escheate land, 4s. John Baresby, 3s. William Smyth, for Mr. Derby 27s. 4d. William Kent, 21d. William Browne, 7s. 7d. The tenants of Mr. Coton, 4d. John Swyfte, 13d. Ralph Botheway, for Mr. Derby, 3s. Henry Clerk, 20d. Thomas Blak, for Mr. Derby, 6s. 8d. The tenants of Matthew Woodford, 16d. John Wryght, 2s. William Blak, 3s. Thomas Rawlynson,

2s. 6d. John Rawlynson, for Mr. Derby, 12d. One acre of Town land, 1d. The prior of Trentham for one carucate, 2s. Sum of the rents in Gaddesby, £6 2s. 6d.

Tenants at will of the lord, 40s. Item, Blomholme lees, 2s.
Sum, 42s.

Rothley Chief Rents.

From M. Donham, 4s. 4d. William Buttclar, 12½d. John Kyngeston, 12½d. William Tough, 7s. William Brygend, junr., 2s. 1d. Thomas Brygend, 6d. William Morden, 11d. William Hull, 18d. Thomas Watkyn, 8½d. John Martyn, 16½d. William Brokesby, 4s. 8d. The same William, 1d. John Clerk, 16d. John Fowler, 20d. Sir Robert Fulsit, knight, 8s. Richard Martyn, 12d. Bradborn Coventrie, 4d. Alexander Palmer, 2d. Felicia Bramston, 11½d. Richard Thorpe, 22d. Thomas Pachet, 7½d. John Tylle, 4s. Robert Perys, for church land, 4s. Thomas Kyngeston, of Rotheley for rent, 14s. John Olyfe, 4½d. John Olyfe, 3½d. Mr. Skevyngton, 4s. 4d. John Kyngeston, 5d. Thomas Pachet, for Cosbe, 4s. William Tylle, 12½d. John Spenlufe, 2s. 5d. Roger Merdlay, 3s. 2d. William Brygend, senr., 11d. The prior of Ulverscroft,¹ 7d. — Tugh, 2s. 9d. John Howbe, 2s. 2d. The Vicar of Rothley, 3s. 11½d. John Mylner, 8½d. John Kyngeston, 4s. 6d. Robert Perys, 8d. Robert Greyn, 9½d. John German, 1d. Thomas Chavenceny, 5s. 3d. Robert Whatton, 5s. John Goldsmith, 12d. Thomas Pachet, 20d. William Mastyn, 14d. Ralph Mason, 11¾d. John Gladwyn, 3s. 9d. Agnes Rawthorn, 23d. Roger Rawthorn, 1½d. Ralph Barker, 7d. John Wyllows, 7d. The church of Rothley, 11d. Richard Thorpe, 6d. William Draper, 3d. Thomas Whyte, of Barkbe, 3d. Robert Linsey, 3d. MargaretTyll, 16d. Edward Thornell, 4½d. John Tylle, 6d. Robert North, 2½d. Roger Meyrdley, 6s. 8d.

Sum of chief rents, £6 8s. 3d.

Rental there for the term of St. John the Baptist.

From Thomas Pachet, 12d. William Smyth, 5d. Thomas Pachet, 3d. William Vycars, of Cropston, 5d. Thomas Wyatt, 2d.

¹Ulverscroft.

Agnes Leche, 2d. John Braunston, 12d. Thomas Pachet, 9d. Sir Christopher Merciall, priest, 9d. Richard Thorpe, 21d. John Sharples, 5d. John Olyfe, 8d. John Tyll, 2½d. John Clerk, 6d. John Dave, 3d. The church house of Rothcley, 12d. John Kyngeston, 2d. John German, 5½d. Robert Perys, 8d. Mr. Davers, 2½d. William Brokysby, 12d. The same William, 4d. John Clark, 8d. Robert Perys, for the church house, 6d. William Brygend, junr., 4d. William Butler, 4d. William Brygend, senr., 1d. Item, for the escheate house, 12d. John Scryven, 6d. William Hull, 7d. William Marden, 6d. John Waytt, 2d. Thomas Pachett, 12d. William Tugh, 18d. William Burton, 3d. Thomas Brygend, 3d. John Kyngeston, 6d. Mr. Skevington, 8d.

Sum, £7 9s. 10½d.

Baggrave.

From the Abbot of Leicester there for chief rent, £3 15s. 11d.

Baresby. Chief Rents.

From Richard Butterye, 14d. Robert Bikerstaff, 2s. William Cooke, 2s. The heirs of John Hoore, 21d. Alan Gyssyng, 12d. Ralph Gyssyng, senr., 14d. Margaret Bykerstaff, 17d. Richard Pyk, 16d. Richard Cooke, 3s. 9d. Ralph Pyk, junr., 23d. William Pyk, for escheate land, 5s. Robert Gyssyng, 17d. John Buk, for self and for Baresby thynge, 22d. Ralph Pyk, 14d. William Tebbe, 21d. John Tebbe and William Tebbe, 2s. 4d. Ralph Gylson, 6s. 10d. The heirs of William Pyk, 3s. 8d. Everard Derby, 6s. Robert Borugh, 8d. Thomas Pyk, 2s. 3d. John Buk, tenant of William Pyk, 8d.

Sum, 51s. 1d.

Croxtion. Chief Rents..

From Edmund Stevenson, 11d. William Plumer, 20d. John Taylor, 2d. Edmund Plumer, 2s. 1d. John Pyk, 10d. John Taylor, 4d. Everard Derby, for Gylson thing, 8d. The same Everard for Barkeley thing, 20d. The heirs of William Gyssyng, 22d. Robert Matte, 14d. John Palmer, 3s. 8d. Thomas Stevenson, 3s.

Sum, 18 shillings.

Erborough. Chief Rents.

From Robert Borough, 8d. The house where Nell lives, 12s.
John Rokeby, 2s. 1d.

Sum, 14s. 9d.

Twyford,

Twyford payeth by year, 26s. 8d. In decays, 8s. 8d.

Tylton. Chief Rents.

From Everard Dygby, 2s. The abbot of Croxton, 18d.
Everard Digby, for Bolton thyng, 18d. Everard Digby, for Reff
thyng, 3s. The escheate land, 18d.

Sum, 9s. 6d.

Marfeld South. Chief Rents.

From William Alyn, 9s. 2d. William Alyn, for Reff thyng,
7s. 1d. William Alyn, for Clerk thyng, 10d. William Alyn, for
Roulson thyng, 4s. Everard Dygby, 3s.

Sum, 24s. 1d.

Marfeld North. Chief Rents.

From the abbot of Cyston,¹ 50s.

Somerby. Chief Rents.

From William Wynter, 10d. John Horsepoyll, 5s. John Dale,
9d. John Croden, 9d. John Dent, 10½d. John Trygge, senr., 2s.
John Trygge, junr., 21d. Richard Wayte, 2s. The prioress of
Langley, 2s. 6d. Richard Sutton, 15d. William Lynde, 14d.
Freysby thyng, 3d. Dalby thyng, 3d.

Sum, 19s. 4½d.

Kayham. Chief Rents.

From John Bawdryk, 2s. 4d. William Clerk, 18s. 6d. William
Wynterton, 6s. 6d. William Wynterton, for Roger Wygston,
20d. Thomas Wodkok, 4s. 2d. Richard Herberd, 2s. 11d. John
Medylton, 21d. The church of Bebe, 6d. John Medylton,

¹Owston.

10s. 8d. John Power, for the church, 3s. John Wutton, 2s. 2d.
 John Wodkok, 7d. John Wodkok, 3s. John Trygge, 5s.
 William Hayn, 2s. 4d.

Suni, 65s. 1d.

Quenburgh.

From Quenburgh for lands there, 6s. 1d.

Onlyp. [Wanlip].

From Mr. Stawnton, 15d.

Brystayll. [Birstall].

From Henry Kendale, 6d.

Thuraston.

From Thomas Mylner, 2s.

Scraptoft.

From John Byshop, 2s.

Sum of all the aforesaid parcels amounteth to £66 5s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

PRECEPTORIES OF DALBY AND ROTHLEY.

Minister's Account.

The accounts of all and singular the bailiffs, collectors, farmers and other ministers of the preceptories of Dalby and Rotheley with members, late in the hand of the venerable Brother Thomas Newport, bailiff of Eagle and preceptor of the preceptories aforesaid, and now in the hand of the common treasurer of the religion of St. John of Jerusalem in England from the time of the death of the said late preceptor, who died 24 February, 1522, in the peril of the sea in the parts of Spain, namely, from the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 14 Henry VIII., until the same feast then next following, 15 Henry VIII., namely for one whole year [*i.e.*, 24 June, 1522 to 24 June, 1523.]

Dalby with its Members. Minister's account of the manor of Dalby.

The account of Thomas Dylke and Andrew Nowell, bailiffs there, namely, the said Thomas from said feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the said 14th year of the King aforesaid,

until the feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin then next following; and the said Andrew from the same feast of the Annunciation B.V.M., 14 Henry VIII., until the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist then next ensuing, 15 Henry VIII.

Arrears.

The same are charged in the account with £58 13s. 3d. of arrears of the last account for the year preceding as appears at the foot of the same.

Sum, 58 13s. 3d.

Assized Rents and at will of the lord within the fee of Dalby.

And they answer for £8 10s. 7d. of assized rents and at the will of the lord in Dalby yearly as appears by the rental there renewed in the 4th year of the reign of King Henry VIII., in possession of the bailiff remaining. And for 21s. 2d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Broughton yearly. And for 40s. of rents at the will of the lord in Byging juxta Wydmerpole yearly. And for 17s. 2d. of assized rents in Kyrkeby Bellers yearly. And for 17s. 4d. of assized rents and at the will of the lord in Edmunthorpe and Wodmainham¹ yearly. And for 16s. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Sewstern and Bukmynster yearly. And for 15s. 1½d. of assized rents and at the will of the lord in Schallford [Sealford] yearly. And for 20d. of assized rents in Holwell² yearly. And for 20s. 10d. of assized rents at the will of the lord in Stathern yearly. And for 13s. 4d. assized rents and at the will of the lord in Apketilby yearly. And for 9s. 7d. of rents of assize and at will of the lord in Howes yearly. And 5s. of assized rents and at the will of the lord in Harby yearly. And for 5s. 6d. rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Plungare yearly. And for 13d. of assized rent in Knepton yearly. And for 3s. 11d. of assized rent in Braunston yearly. And for 3s. 3d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Wylloughby yearly. And for £7 11s. 7d. of assized rents and at the will of the lord in Melton Mowbray yearly. And for 12s. 6d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Northstoke³ yearly. And for £8 8s. 1d. of rents of assize and will of the lord in Stonesby yearly. And

¹Wymondham. ²Holwell. ³co. Lincoln.

for 40s. 4d. for rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Caudwell and Wykham yearly. And for £6 2s. 0½d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Grymston yearly. And for 14s. 4d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Saxilby yearly. And for 52s. 2d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Werkneby¹ yearly. And for 31s. 4d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Bilyngburgh² yearly.

Farm of the Site of the Manor with the Demesne Lands.

And for £9 0s. 16d. of the farm of the manor or site of the preceptory of Dalby together with all the tithes of Dalby aforesaid, so now let to Humphrey Babington by an indenture dated [not filled in]. To have and to hold from the feast of Nativity of St. John the Baptist—until the end of the term of — years then next ensuing and fully to be completed, paying at the feasts of the Purification B.V. Mary and St. Barnabas the apostle by equal portions, [the rents of Grymston and Wylloughby belonging to the said manor altogether reserved], and the said farmer and his assigns shall find one chaplain to celebrate the divine services in the church of Dalby aforesaid during the said term and also shall find Sir John Plumtre chaplain there, and shall pay to the said Sir John for wages together with his clothing 53s. 4d. and meat and drink and the keep of one horse during the term aforesaid. And the said farmer shall find meat and drink for the bailiff of the lord there or his deputy for the collection of the rents, or 40s. yearly, and further shall find him an honest lodging during the said term, and the same farmer shall pay the costs and expenses of the lord on his coming twice a year and the costs and expenses of the Steward and Receiver as often as it may happen to be necessary for them coming to superintend and examine the said preceptory with its members. And further the same farmer shall repair, keep and maintain all the houses in thatching with straw and plastering and roofing with tiles, and maintain the closes and ditches at his own proper cost and expense during the term aforesaid. So now let to the said Humphrey Babington yearly.

And for 26s. 8d. from Henry Wylloughby, kt., for certain lands in Wylloughby yearly. And for 46s. 8d. from Roger

¹Wartnaby. ²co. Lincoln.

Hollyngworth for the farm of the manor of Stonnesby with the demesne lands to the same belonging yearly.

Sum, £12 14s. 8d.

Farm of the Pastures.

And for 26s. 8d. for the farm of the pasture in Wylloughby so let to divers persons yearly. And for 33s. 4d. for the farm of the meadows at Thorneeastren¹ yearly. And for 40s. for the farm of the pasture called Bygging in the fields of Wylloughby juxta Wydmerpole, namely, for the term aforesaid he does not answer because it was before charged under the heading of rents of assize and at the will of the lord within the fee of Dalby yearly.

Sum, 60s.

Farm of the Mill.

And for 33s. 4d. farm of the wind mill there yearly, so lately let to Nicholas Sharpe as in divers preceding accounts.

Farm of the Rectories.

And for £6 13 4d. of the farm of the rectory of Gryinston yearly. And for 66s. 8d. farm of the rectory of Warknaby² yearly. And 66s. 8d. farm of the rectory of Cawdwell and Wykhame yearly. And for 53s. 4d. increase of rent of the said farm of the rectory of Warknaby for four years past at the feast of Annunciation B.V. Mary, 14 Henry VIII., which Thomas Dylke within the said time did not account, viz., for each year, 13s. 4d.

Sum, £16.

Farm of the Brotherhood.

And for £12 of the farm of the brotherhood of Dalby.

And for 56s. 8d. of rent and farm of two messuages, two bovates of land and one mill recovered from Thomas Entwisell, and for £4 of rent for certain lands and tenements lately bought from the said Thomas Entwisell—yearly.

Sum, £6 16s. 8d.

Goods and Chattels of Felons and Fugitives.

Perquisites of Courts with Common Fine.

For any profit arising from goods or chattels or issues there

¹Thurcaston. ²Wartnaby.

within the time which the said Thomas Dylke was bailiff of the lord there he does not answer, because none came into his hand. Nor does he answer for the pleas or perquisites of the Courts there held in this year because the estreats of those Courts were very small nor are they levied by said bailiff but he will answer in a future year. But they answer for 63s. 1d. for common fines received by the said bailiff within the said preceptory of Dalby as appear in preceding divers accounts. And for 113s. 4d. of fines received by the said Thomas Dylke, viz., 66s. 8d. thereof received from the Master of Burton St. Lazars and 46s. 8d. residue received of William Barbor of Heythor on this account.

Sum, £8 16s. 5d.

Sum received with arrears, £167 7s. 4d.

Fees and Wages.

The same account for the fee of John Dygby, kt., retained as counsel of the lord, 20s., and for the fee of John Villers, steward there, yearly as in divers preceding accounts, 40s., and in the fee of Thomas Brukesby, 13s. 4d., and in the fee of Thomas Fernam,¹ under steward there, namely, from St. Michael in the said year (not filled in), and in the fee of Anthony Babington, surveyor, paid by said Andrew, 20s., and in monies paid to the dean of Leycester for leave to bury a robber at the chapel of St. James juxta Leycester, as in preceding accounts, 3s. 4d., and for the fees of the said bailiffs there by reason of their office, viz., to each of them for the said year, rated at 40s. yearly, as was allowed in the account preceding, 40s., for their clothing yearly, viz., to each of them, 3s. 4d., as in preceding accounts, 6s. 8d., and in the wages of the said bailiffs, keepers of the woods of the lord there, viz., to each of them 6s. 8d., 13s. 4d.

Sum, £7 16s. 8d.

Decay of Rents.

And in decay of rent of certain lands and pastures called Byggyng lying in the fields of Wylloughby formerly charged at 40s. yearly and now let to divers persons at only 26s. 8d. yearly and so in decay, 13s. 4d.

Sum, 13s. 4d.

¹Farnham, of Nether hall, Quorndon.

Money Paid.

And in monies paid to Thomas Newport, clerk, then receiver general, 10 November, 14 Henry VIII., as by his bill remaining on record of this year, £20. And the said Thomas Dylke paid to brother John Babington, treasurer of the religion, 16 March, 14 Henry VIII., as appears 100s.

Sums allowed and paid, £33 10s. 0d. and he owes £133 17s. 4d.

Of which respite for monies paid to Gregory Humphrey, chaplain of Dalby, for his wages due to him at — 15 Henry VIII., in respite by the order of the said treasurer until he shall obtain a sufficient acquittance 100s. And in allowance of the surplus of the preceding year 18s. 10½d. for his costs going to London on three occasions in this year by order of the said treasurer 20s., in all 38s. 10½d. And in allowance for the farm of the site of the manor of Dalby in the tenure of Humphrey Babington, the farmer there, formerly charged at £9 1s. 4d. and paid to Thomas Newport, kt., late preceptor of the same, by reason of an anticipation granted to him for his journey towards Rhodes for the two first years to come, so in allowance in this year as should be allowed in a future year £9 1s. 4d. And in respite for money paid to brother John Babington, treasurer, by the hand of Thomas Kynge, farmer of the meadows in Belhome, of his recognisance on this account as they say, 33s. 4d.

And in respite for divers repairs made by Thomas Dylke until a bill of the particulars may be seen, 22s. 5d. And in respite for the expenses of the Court by him paid, 8s. 6d. and enclosing the wood there, 6s. until he has a bill of the written particulars, 14s. 6d. And in money paid by the said Andrew Nowell to the said John Babington, treasurer, as appears by two particulars in one bill, £28 6s. 8d. And in allowance for divers parcels demanded by the said Andrew, as appears by a bill of John Babington underwritten, 15s. 6d. And in money paid to John Dygby, kt., because the lord has all the lands and tenements of his in Dalby at farm for the easement of his tenants, beyond 30s. paid to the same, 7s. 4d. And they owe £84 17s. 4½d. of which said Thomas Dylke paid to John Babington, treasurer, 20 September, 15 Henry VIII., as appears by a bill among the memoranda of this year remaining, £15 3s. 4½d. And they owe

£69 14s. 0d. as is contained in the following account, of which John Hurst, late farmer [not filled in] there for his arrears, 17 Henry VII., owes 46s. 8d. Maurice Berkley, kt., for the rent of one toft called Peneyard and 8 acres of meadow lying on "More" and certain arable land in Wodmandhōme¹ being in arrear, as much for this year as for 21 years preceding at 8s. a year. Nevertheless he refuses to pay but 2s. a year, £8 8s. 1d.

The abbot of Croxton for certain rents in Braunston, being in arrear as much for this year as for 21 years preceding, at 6d. a year, 11s.

The same abbot of Croxton for his rent in Stonesby, being in arrear as much for this year as for 22 years preceding, at 2s. yearly, 46s.

Henry Willoughby, kt., for rent of certain lands in Willoughby occupied by him and detained, being in arrear as much for this year as for 23 years preceding, at 26s. 8d. a year, £32.

The occupiers of the lands and tenements late of Ralph Rocheford in Northstowke in co. Lincoln, called Baldok thyng, being in arrear as much for this year as for 23 preceding years, at 3s. yearly, 72s.

Thomas Johnson for his rent in Melton Mowbray, being in arrear this year and 21 years preceding at 3s. 4d. a year, 73s. 4d.

Elizabeth Kyngeston for her rent in Dalby, being in arrear for 10 years at the feast of St. John the Baptist, anno. 5 Henry VIII., at 8s. yearly, £4.

The same Elizabeth Kyngeston, late farmer of Heyther, for her arrears, anno. 12 Henry VII., 23s. 4d.

Divers persons for amercements put upon them owing to the lord from 22 Henry VII., 18s. 6d. and 1 Henry VIII., 39s. 2d.

William Nobill of Scalford for his obit for certain lands in the same vill, anno. 7 Henry VIII., owes 6s. 8d.

Divers tenants for their arrears at Michaelmas within the time of this account as appears by a bill of their names and sums remaining among the memoranda of this year, 33s. 6d.

Total, £69 14s. 0d.

Bailiffs accountants	{ Thomas Dylke, Andrew Nowell,	£7 5s. 9d.
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[End of the Dalby accounts.]

¹Wymondham.

Rotheley. Minister's Account of the manor of Rothley.

The account of Thomas Pachet, bailiff there for the time aforesaid.

Arrears.

The same accountant answers for £7 8s. 0d. of the arrears of the account for the preceding year as appears at the foot of the same account.

And for 26s. 8d. rents and at the will of the lord in Twyford yearly by a rental there renewed.

And for 14s. 9d. assized rents in Burgh yearly.

And for 6d. assized rent in Bristall¹ yearly.

And for 15d. assized rent in Awnlepe² of Margery Strawnton yearly.

And for £7 9s. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. assized rents and at the will of the lord in Rotheley yearly.

And for £6 2s. 6d. assized rents and at will of the lord in Gaddesby yearly.

And for 75s. 11d. assized rents and at the will of the lord in Baggrave yearly.

And for 65s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. assized rents and at will of the lord in Kame³ yearly.

And for 24s. 7d. assized rents and at will of the lord in Meryfeld⁴ south yearly.

And for 19s. 9d. assized rents and at will of the lord in Somerby yearly.

And for 9s. 6d. assized rents and at will of the lord in Tilton yearly.

And for 18s. assized rents and at will of the lord in South Croxton [yearly].

And for 56s. 10d. assized rents and at will of the lord in Baresby yearly.

And for 2s. assized rents and at will of the lord in Thurcaston yearly.

And for 6s. 1d. assized rents and at will of the lord in Queniburgh yearly.

And for 2s. assized rents and at will of the lord in Scraptoft yearly.

¹Birstall. ²Wanlip. ³Keyham. ⁴Marefield.

And for 8d. assized rents in Billysdon yearly, as in the said rental is contained in divers previous accounts.

Sum, £29 16s. 0½d.

Farm of the Demesne Lands.

And for £6 13s. 4d. of the farm of the manor of Rotheley with the appurtenances, together with the farm of the water mill there, lately let to the said Thomas Pachet, the accountant, and so now let to Rouland Mercer yearly.

And for 50 shillings from the abbot of Wolston¹ for the farm of all the lands and pastures in Meryfeld² North so let to him by the year.

And for 42 shillings of the farm of the demesne lands at Gaddesby called Templeland (40s.) and Berkmorechomleclosse, so let formerly to Thomas Mounke and now let to Thomas Underwood.

Sum, £11 5s. 4d.

Farm of the Meadows.

And for [not filled in] formerly received for the farm of the meadows and pastures called Beamountleesse or for the farm of the pasture called Old leese or the pasture called Barstableesse at Beamount, or the pasture called Belholme, for the time of this account he does not answer, because they were granted to the lord E[dward] late king of England the fourth in exchange for the rectory of the vill of St. Botolph of Boston in co. Lincoln, as appeareth in divers preceding accounts.

Farm of the Fishing.

But he answers for 10 shillings farm of the fishing of the water of Rotheley yearly, as in the preceding accounts, so now let to Rouland Mercer.

Sum, 10 shillings.

Farm of the Rectory.

And for £12 farm of the rectory of Rotheley yearly, so now let to the accountant aforesaid.

And for £12 farm of the rectory of Gaddesby yearly, so now let to Thomas Kebyll.

Sum, £24.

¹Owston. ²Marefield.

Goods and Chattels of Felons and Fugitives.

And for 2s. 8d. the price of one black horse there in this year, so appraised, and sold to James Plumtre, as the said accountant states on his oath. For any similar profit arising from goods and chattels of felons and fugitives within the said term he does not answer, because none happened there within the said term, as this accountant states on his oath.

Sum, 2s. 8d.

Sale of Timber.

But he answers for £10 6s. 0d. from the sale of timber, wood and underwood there sold by Thomas Newport, knight, late preceptor of the same, in the preceding year to divers persons in a certain bill with the particulars of the sums specified, received within the time of this account for repairing and mending, which bill remains in the memoranda of this year.

Sum, £10 6s. 0d.

Perquisites of Courts.

He does not answer for any profit arising from the pleas and perquisites of the Courts held there in this year, because the rolls of the same Courts were not delivered nor sufficiently extracted by which he could be charged in this account, therefore he will answer in the account of a future year.

Sum Total with arrears, £83 0s. 8½d.
of which

Fee of the Accountant.

The same accountant for his fee of bailiff there at 40 shillings yearly by reason of his office as is allowed in divers preceding accounts.

Sum, 40 shillings.

Decrease of Rents.

And in decrease of rent of the farm of Baddesley formerly charged at £12 yearly and now let to Henry Gylles for £11 13s. 4d. yearly, and so in decrease of rent, 6s. 8d.

And in decrease of rent of one tenement and two bovates of land in Twyford formerly charged at 26s. 8d. yearly, because it remains in the hands of the lord, except 20s. from the issues thence, and so it is decreased in rent 6s. 8d.

Sum, 13s. 4d.

Payment of Monies.

And in money paid to Thomas Newport, clerk, then receiver general, 26 February, 14 Henry VIII., as by his bill thereof remaining in the memoranda of this year, £24. And he paid to brother John Babington, knight, the treasurer, 26 April, 15 Henry VIII., as by his bill remaining £11, and on 15 September in the same year, as appears in the same bill remaining, £15, acknowledged to have been received by him J. Babington, treasurer, £26.

Sum, £50.

Sum of the allocations and payments, £52 13s. 4d., of which there is allowed to him for his clothing in this year as in preceding accounts, 6s. 8d. And there is allocated for divers repairs there made in this and the preceding year as appears in a bill of particulars thereof made by the said John Babington, the treasurer, signed and remaining £7 17s. 4d. And he owes £22 3s. 4½d., of which there is allowed to him for money paid into the hands of Thomas Newport, bailiff of Eagle and late preceptor of the preceptory aforesaid for his journey to Rhodes by reason of his anticipation for two years, viz., from the farm of the rectory of Rothley for the same two years £24, rated at £12 yearly before charged, as appears in his bill thereof examined on this account by the said J. Babington, knight, treasurer of the religion of St. John of Jerusalem in England, before the auditor, signed with his seal and written with his hand, the date of which is 11 September, 14 Henry VIII., and so allowed in this year as should be allowed in the next year, £12. And he paid 16 September, 15 Henry VIII., to the said John Babington, knight, the treasurer, by the bill remaining 6s. 2½d. And he owes £7 2s. 2d.

Everard Dygby, esquire, for his rent in Tilton and Merefeld South owes to the lord at the feast of St. John the baptist, anno., 13 Henry VII., 41s. 6d.; anno. 14, for Bolythyng in three parcels 6s.; anno. 15, 6s.; anno. 16, 6s.; anno. 17, 6s; anno. 18, 5s. 10d.; anno. 19, 6s.; anno. 22, 3s.; anno. 23, 3s.; anno. 1 Henry VIII., 3s.; anno. 2, 21d.; anno. 3, 3s.; anno. 4, 3s.; anno. 5, 3s.; anno. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 3s. each year; anno. 11, 18d.; anno. 12, 13 and 14, 18d.; and in this year 18d. 119s. 7d.

Thomas Charnell for his free rent in Snarsson [Snareston] being in arrear for 4 years ending at feast of St. John the Baptist, 20 Henry VII., at 4d. yearly, 16d.

The prior of Trentham, for rent of one carucate of land situated in Gaddesby, being in arrear for 3 years ending at the feast of St. John the Baptist, anno., 20 Henry VII., at 2s. yearly, 6s.

Matthew Wodford, for rent in Barnesby, being in arrear for eight preceding years at 4d. yearly, 2s. 8d.

Edmund Stevenson, for part of his free rent in South Croxton, being in arrear for 4 years ending at the feast of St. John the Baptist, 20 Henry VII., at 13d. yearly, 4s. 4d.

John Taylour of Hoby, late servant of John Villers, knight, as appears for the money owed by him of the moiety of the perquisites of the Courts, anno., 21 Henry VII., beyond the other moiety granted to the same John Villers by the lord, 8s. 3d.

(The account leaves off here abruptly.)

Heyther. Minister's Account of the manor of Heather.

The account of John Barker, bailiff there, for the said time.

Arrears.

The same bailiff answers for £25 15s. 2d. of arrears of the last account for the preceding year as appears on the foot of the same.

Sum, £25 15s. 2d.

Rents of assize and at the will of the lord within the Bailiwick of Heyther.

And for 79s. 2d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Walton Ysseley [Isley Walton] yearly by the rental there renewing. And for 11s. 1d. of rent at the will of the lord in Osgorthorpe yearly. And for 76s. 2½d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Heyther yearly. And for 7s. 0½d. for rents of customary tenants there yearly. And for 8s. of assized rents in Twycross yearly.

For any profits arising or renewing of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Wellesburgh, namely, for the time of this account, he does not answer, because let to farm to Nicholas Temple and afterwards charged under the title of farm of the demesne lands as described hereafter.

But he answers for 4s. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in ? Staunton yearly. And for 12d. assized rent in Gopsall yearly. And for 5s. of assized rent in Newton *juxta Leycester* yearly. And for 4d. of assized rent in Snarson [Snareston] yearly. And for 10s. assized rent in Overshall and Nethershall¹ yearly. And for 14s. 4d. rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Swannyngton yearly. And for 7s. 9d. of rent of assize in Rauneston [Ravenston] yearly. And for 3½d. assized rent in Shilton yearly. And for 11s. of rent of assize and at the will of the lord in Staunton under Bardon yearly. And for 74s. 11d. of assized rents and at the will of the lord in Petlyng parva yearly. And for 12d. of assized rent in Walton *juxta Keincote* yearly. And for 12d. rent of assize in Shethesby² yearly. And for 40s. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Leyre yearly. And for 2s. assized rent in Asheby yearly. And for 4s. 1d. assized rent in Snarfford³ yearly. And for 5s. 7d. rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Bittiswell and Lutterworth yearly. And for 10s. from Everard Feldyng for one messuage and certain lands in Lutterworth formerly of Roger Lucas. And 12 pence assized rent in Foxton yearly. And for 12 pence of assized rent in Kilworth South yearly. And for 12d. of assized rent in Sutton yearly. And for 13s. 4d. of assized rents in Whatston⁴ yearly. And for 10s. 9d. rents at the will of the lord in Ketilthorpe³ yearly. And 18s. 4d. rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Cosby yearly. And 12d. assized rent in Mowbrey yearly. And for 2s. assized rent in Howton yearly. And for 3s. 8d. of assized rent in Prestwold yearly. And for 12d. of assized rent in Burton yearly. And 6s. 11d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Wymeswold. And for 14s. 4d. of rents of assize and at the will of the lord in Kilworth yearly, as appears in divers preceding accounts.

Sum, £22 5s. 10d.

Farm of the Demesne Lands.

And for 66s. 8d. from Nicholas Temple for the farm of certain lands at Wellesburgh yearly.

And for 66s. 8d. from the farmer of the manor of Heyther with all its appurtenances so let to the said accountant.

Sum, £6 13s. 4d.

¹Overseal and Netherseal. ²Shearsby. ³co. Lincoln. ⁴Whetstone.

Farm of the Mills.

And for 40s. from the farm of the water mill of Heyther, so let to Robert Barbone yearly. And for 26s. 8d. from the farm of the mill there called Walkemyll.

Sum, 66s. 8d.

Farm of the Pensions.

And for 6s. from the farm of the pension of the rectory of Assheby parva yearly. And for 6s. 8d. from the pension of the rectory of Raunceton yearly.

Sum, 12s. 8d.

Increase of Rent.

And for 6d. increase of rent for one cottage in Twycrosse, newly built by John Farmer, rendering therefor yearly for term of his life 6d., who is now dead, and now let to Robert Farmer, his son, at 12d. yearly.

Sum, 6d.

Perquisites of the Courts with Estrays.

And for 22d. for the price of two stray sheep so appraised in this year by the homage of the Court and sold by the said accountant on his own recognisance as he says on oath on this account. For any other profit arising from perquisites of the Courts held in this year he does not answer because the Rolls were not sufficiently extracted by the steward of the Court before this account or not delivered, therefore he will answer for them in a future year.

Sum, 22d.

Decay of Rents.

Sum of the rents with arrears, £59 6s. 0d., of which

The same accountant for decay of rent of one toft and virgate of land in Oversheyle, formerly of William Waren, and of one virgate of land formerly of Roger Redeward, formerly charged at 10s. yearly, and since the accountant is unaware where the payment for it lies so that he could distrain, in decay 5s. And in decay of rent of a messuage and bovate of land in Wheston late in the tenure of William Cokke for 13s. 4d. yearly and now let to Elizabeth Ward for 11s. yearly, and so in decay 2s. 4d. And in decay of rent of two tofts and a virgate of land in

Wymneswode, formerly in the tenure of John Clarke charged at 6s. 11d. yearly and now let to divers tenants there for 3s. 11d., and so in decay 3s. And in default of the farm of the pension from the rectory of Raunceton, formerly charged at 6s. 8d. yearly, because the rector there refuses to pay and so in default 6s. 8d. And in decrease of rent for certain lands in Wellesburgh, charged above at 66s. 8d. yearly, because they remain in the hand of the lord except 53s. 4d. of the issues thence, and so in decrease of rent, 13s. 4d.

Sum, 30s. 4d.

Fee of the Accountant.

And in the fee of the said accountant, bailiff there, taking 26s. 8d. yearly by reason of his office, as was allowed in divers preceding accounts.

Sum, 26s. 8d.

Payment of Monies.

And in money paid to Thomas Newport, chaplain, then receiver general, 27 January, 14 Henry VIII., as by his bill remaining among the memoranda of this year, £9 13s. 4d. And he paid to brother John Babington, knight, the treasurer of the religion of St. John of Jerusalem in England on two occasions, viz., 26 April, 15 Henry VIII., and 15 September, 15 Henry VIII., £10 and £7, in all £17, as by his two bills remaining in the memoranda of this year.

Sum, £26 13s. 4d.

Sums allocated and paid £29 10s. 4d.. And he owes £29 15s. 8d., of which is allowed with 6s. 8d. for divers particulars contained in a bill, for his clothing in the same bill specified, signed by the said John Babington, the treasurer, and remaining among the memoranda, 18s. 11d.

And he paid to John Babington, the treasurer, on 17 September, 15 Henry VIII., on the settlement of this account as appears by his bill remaining among the memoranda of this year, 37s. 9d. And he owes £26 19s. 0d.

The occupiers of the lands and tenements late of John Markham for rent of 13s. 4d. for his rent in Swanyngton, being in arrear as much for this year as for 21 preceding years, at 10s. 4d. yearly, beyond 3s. paid yearly—£11 7s. 4d.

John Vessy, for his free rent in Shilton, being in arrear for 9 years preceding ending at the feast of St. John the Baptist, 21 Henry VII., at 8d. yearly, 6s.

Thomas Bent and Richard Halyday, for their part of the free rent in Cosby, being in arrear for 5 years ending at St. John the Baptist, 21 Henry VII., at 12d. yearly, 5s.

Christopher Neell, for rent for certain lands and tenements in Howton formerly of William Ridyng, being in arrear for this and 23 preceding years at 2s. yearly, 48s.

The same Christopher for rent from certain lands in Prestwold, being in arrear for this and 23 preceding years at 18d. yearly, 36s.

Everard Feldyng, for his free rent in Lutterworth, being in arrear for this and 20 preceding years at 10s. yearly, £10 10s. 0d.

John Clerke, chaplain, for his pension in Raunceton, 17 Henry VII., owes 6s. 8d.

ROTHELEYE.

View of Frankpledge with great court of Thomas Dokwray, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, in the time of Henry Babington, kt., preceptor of the same, held 4 October, 17 Henry VIII., A.D. 1525.

Jury :—

John Kyngston	Ralph Landall	John Burton	} Sworn
John Wyllouse	Alexander Palmer	Thomas Pachet	
John Olyve	Robt. Palmer	Humpy. Hewerd	
John Pachet	Will Tough	John Branston	

6d.

Who say on oath that William Kyngeston, kt., William 6d. 4d.

Skewenton, kt.,¹ Will Dunham, William Bradebern, the prior of 2d. 2d. 2d.

Wylscroft², Will Martyn, John Gladewin, Bart Brokesby, William 2d. 2d. 2d. 2d.

Lolle, Roger Ratelyffe, Elizabeth Tylle, Robert Fulstyt, Henry 2d. 2d. 2d. 2d.

Smith, Ric. Butler, chaplain, John Davers,³ John Clerk of 2d. 2d. 2d.

Belgrave, John Dafte, Robert Vyncent, Robert Northe of 2d. 2d. 2d.

Monstrell,⁴ Thos. Clerk and Williarn Canewell owe suit to this

¹Sir William Skeffington. ²Ulverscroft. ³Danvers. ⁴Mountsorrel.

Court for their lands and tenements in Rotheleye and did not come. Therefore they are in mercy as appears above their heads.

Sum, 4s. 8d.

2d.

They present that Ric Mayson made an attack on Thomas Ransom and that Robt. Screvener made an assault on Will Gevyes
2d.
and that Ric Durant made an assault on Will Touge and that Will Nought made an assault on Will Whetnall, therefor each of them is in mercy.

Further they say that Thomas Pachet, William Burton of Leicester, William Blount of Walton, Davyd Walcheman and John Haket are "foreigners" who have bought lands and tenements within the vill and fields of Rotheley and have never made fine with the lord for the lands and tenements according to the custom of the manor of Rotheley, therefor the bailiff of the said manor is ordered to seize all the lands and tenements so bought into the hand of the lord.

They present that William Brokesby held of the lord divers lands and tenements in Rotheley by suit of Court and a yearly rent of 5s. 9d. and died 10 September last year. And that Robert Brokesby is his son and next heir. The bailiff is ordered to distrain said Robert for his relief.¹

They present that William Fulfs was seised in his demesne as of fee in divers lands and tenements in Rotheley and held them of the lord by suit of Court and rent of 8s. yearly. And that Robert is his son and next heir therefor, etc. (Date of death not given.)

They present that Agnes Towgh was seised in demesne as of fee in divers lands and tenements in Rotheley and held them of the lord by suit of Court and rent of 4s. 8d. yearly. And William Towgh is her son.

They present that John Gouldsmith was seised in his demesne as of fee in divers lands and tenements in Rotheley and held them

¹Payments due to the lord for delivery of the lands on succession.

of the lord by suit of Court and a yearly rent of 12d. And that Bartholomew Brokesby and William Loulle are his kinsmen and heirs. Therefor, etc.

Thomas Grene was seised in demesne in divers lands and tenements in Rotheley and held them of the lord by suit of Court and rent 2½d. yearly. John Grene is his son.

Richard Thorpe was seised, etc. John Thorpe is his son and heir and has the lands aforesaid of the gift of Richard his father.

Henry Smythe now has divers lands and tenements which were of John Wyntershall, as dower of his wife, who was the wife of said John.

John Blanche holds divers lands and tenements as dower of his wife who was (not filled in.)

Thomas Hawson of Brakely holds lands which Ralph Maysson formerly held, as dower of his wife, formerly the wife of said Ralph.

Agnes Rowthern holds in dower the land which Roger Rowthern formerly held.

Affeerers:—John Pachet, William Wetnell.

They present that John Freby who held of the lord 3 acres in Somerby by service 3d. and suit of Court is dead. And that Margaret the wife of Robert Warde and Isabel wife of Edward — are daughters and heirs of the said John. The bailiff is ordered to distrain them for relief.

Thomas Lynde held of the lord a messuage and 14 acres in Somerby by service of 14d. yearly and suit of Court, and William is his son and next heir. Order to the bailiff as above.

Thomas Kebull who held in Saxulby a messuage and 40 acres of the lord by service of 40d. yearly and suit of Court is dead, and John is his son and next heir, therefor order to the bailiff as above.

They say that Edward Monke held of the lord a messuage and 200 acres in Gaddesby by service of 20s. yearly and suit of Court.

And that Elizabeth wife of Henry ? Golf is his daughter and heir, therefore as above.

And Thomas Blak held a messuage and 30 acres of the lord by service of 2s. 6d. yearly and suit of Court. Order to distrain Alice, Joan and Agnes, who are his heirs, for their relief.

William Brokesby who held of the lord a messuage and divers lands in Grymeston by suit of Court and rent of 25s. yearly is dead. And Robert Brokesby is his son and heir. Order as above.

Notes on the family of Kyngston of Rothley

No history of Rothley would be complete without a short account of the family of Kyngston, one member of which—Bartholomew Kyngston—has bequeathed to us the most interesting incised slab remaining in the county of Leicester. Nichols in his article on Rothley, vol. iii., p. 960, dismisses the family in two lines “The Kyngstons held lands within this manor and seem to have been men of good account.” The same author gives a short and incorrect pedigree of Kyngston in vol. iv., p. 408.

The first mention of Kyngston in connection with Rothley is in the year 1441 when Hugh Kyngston brought an action against William Raper, of London, hosier, for breaking into Hugh's house at Rothley and forcibly taking away £10 worth of Hugh's goods and chattels there found [de banco roll Trin., 19 Henry IV., m. 276.]

From 1441 to 1570 the Kyngstons continued to own lands in Rothley and had a parcelose in the church, probably at the east end of the south aisle, which in Burton's time [1622] contained five or six monuments of this family, of which only two now remain in the church.

Hugh Kyngston was probably the father of two sons, Ralph and Robert. Ralph Kyngston owned a house in Rothley then known as “the Hall,” which he purchased in 1481,¹ and was father of Bartholomew, whose interesting monument is dated 1486, but who was still living in 1496, in which latter year he made a gift to the church of Rothley by his charter.²

Robert Kyngston obtained a lease of the manor of Heather for himself, his heirs and assigns in the time of John Weston, then prior of the knights hospitallers [1477 to 1487] for a term

¹British Museum, Add. Charters, no. 7245. ²ibid. no. 7128.

of 60 years at a yearly rent of 16s. 8d., (the yearly value of the manor being £10) from which we may assume that the Kyngstons had an intimate connection with the hospitallers, somewhat similar to that of the Babingtons later on.

Robert Kyngston had 3 sons, William, Thomas and George, one of whom—William—distinguished himself sufficiently in life to have obtained a place in the Dictionary of National Biography, where a full account of him may be read. In 1497 William Kyngston was yeoman of the chamber to king Henry VII, in 1504 he was one of the gentleman ushers of the chamber and received a grant of the office of bailiff of the lordship of Whitwick, co. Leicester. [Patent rolls.] In 1502 he married Anne, relict of sir John Gyse, kt., of Elmore,¹ co. Gloucester. He fought at Flodden and was knighted in 1513. On May 28, 1524, sir William was appointed constable of the Tower of London, and in November 1530 he was sent to Sheffield Park to bring Cardinal Wolsey to London, the unfortunate Cardinal fell ill on the way and died (29th Nov.) at Leicester Abbey. Sir William had charge of Queen Anne Boleyn at the Tower from 2 May, 1536, until her execution (19 May) on Tower Green. On 9 March, 1539, sir William was appointed Controller of the King's household and on 24 April following he was made a Knight of the Garter. On the dissolution of the monasteries he received a grant of the Cistercian Abbey of Flaxley, co. Gloucester. His connection with Rothley was necessarily slight owing to his numerous public services, but in 1531 he sold to William Wyggeston 5 messuages and 550 acres of land at Old Dalby, co. Leicester. His name occurs in the Rothley manor rental of 1533, as owner of a house and 84 acres of land and rents of 14 shillings let to one Thomas Pachett, also of 24 acres let to William Soriben. Sir William died at Painswick, co. Gloucester, 14 Sept., 1540, and was buried there. The dictionary of National Biography states that by his first wife Elizabeth he had a son Anthony Kyngston; if this wife Elizabeth is a fact, then sir William must have married three times, for he certainly left a wife Mary who survived him, daughter of sir Richard Scrope of

¹ de banco roll Mich, 18 Henry VII., m. 526, d.

Upsall, co. York, and widow of sir Edward Jerningham, kt., of Somerleyton, co. Suffolk, by whom he had no issue. In his will proved P.C.C. 5 July, 1541, by Mary, his relict, he makes bequests to his stepsons the Gyes and the Jerninghams and a bequest of £40 to his brother George Kyngston towards the marriage of George's daughters, one of whom Margaret married Francis the eldest son and heir of John Danvers of Swithland.

George Kyngston had married Mary, daughter of sir William Skeffington, kt., and a portion of his monument still remains affixed to the south wall of the south aisle of Rothley church. He died between October 1548 and 1550.

A full account of sir Anthony Kyngston, son and heir of sir William, can be read in the Dictionary of National Biography. His public services were quite as constant as those of his father. He was knighted in 1537 and when the western rebellion broke out in 1549 he was appointed provost marshal in Cornwall of the king's army and suppressed the outbreak at the expense of so much bloodshed that his conduct has been compared with that of Judge Jeffreys. He is said to have entertained the mayor of Bodmin at a banquet and to have hanged him after the repast on gallows which the mayor had himself been directed to make ready. He was M.P. for co. Gloucester in several parliaments from 1545 to 1555. In 1556 he was concerned in a plot to rob the exchequer in order to provide funds for a conspiracy devised by sir Henry Dudley with the object of marrying the princess Elizabeth, afterwards queen, to Courtenay, earl of Devonshire. Being summoned to London to stand his trial sir Anthony died at Cirencester on his way up on 14 April, 1556, so opportunely for himself, that he was supposed to have committed suicide in order to avoid the block. He left two illegitimate sons Anthony Kyngston (who died s.p.) and Edmund Kyngston, the latter of whom sold the last remnants of the Kyngston property at Rothley to John Danvers, of Swithland, by a Fine levied in Hilary term, 1570.



Photo, by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

S. E. VIEW OF CHURCH AS SEEN FROM THE VICARAGE GARDENS.

III.—THE CHURCH

By the Rev. J. Wallace Watts.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin, or John Baptist, or possibly the joint dedication, is a fine specimen of a village church, so far as size and plan are concerned, and, in spite of its drastic restoration in or about 1877, still retains many features of considerable, if not quite unique, interest from an antiquarian point of view.

It consists of a chancel, clerestory, nave of four bays, embattled tower, N. and S. aisles, N. porch, and eastern chamber to the N. Aisle. The axis of the whole building is a few degrees south of true east and west. The architectural periods shown in its fabric are—late Transitional Norman, c. 1160-70: Early English or about the middle of the 13th century: Decorated of the latter quarter of the same century: Perpendicular of the early years of the 15th; and modern of 1876-7.

It is impossible to say when the original Church was built but it is quite likely that a church existed at the beginning of the eleventh century, or even earlier in the Saxon period, for in Domesday Book (c. A.D. 1086) the survey relating to Rothley joins a presbyter with villani and bordarii, in the possession of six ploughs. This may not be absolutely conclusive, but it is good presumptive evidence, as the priest who ministered to the population of the neighbourhood would require some kind of a building to be set apart for religious teaching, and for the administration of the Sacraments: and further, this building would, in all probability, be furnished with a font, and have a burial ground attached, so that it would attain to the status of a parish church, rather than a private or subordinate chapel. No fragment, however, of such a structure has ever been discovered, and probably never will be. The earliest direct evidence we get from any written source of permanent religious building in the parish, comes, as does that of many another of our local churches, from the *Matriculus* of

Hugh of Welles, bishop of Lincoln, 1209-1235. The Register which he caused to be kept, and of which this Matriculus forms a part, was begun in 1219 or 1220, and is, with the possible exception of that said to have been begun in 1214 for the Archdiocese of York, the oldest episcopal record of the affairs of a great diocese. The rolls of this register are mainly arranged according to Archdeaconries, that for Leicester covering the period 1220-1235.

From the 13th century Rothley, with its dependent chapels of Gaddesby, Keyham or Keame, Grimston, Wartnaby, and Caldwell formed what is known as a "Peculiar," and as such was to a large extent free from episcopal supervision. These exemptions were much sought after by the great monastic bodies, and, when once obtained, were jealously guarded. In the case of Rothley all the chapelries were in royal manors, except Gaddesby, and here the king held some land. The term "Peculiar" was given to them not because they were out of the direct authority of the "Ordinary," or bishops of the diocese in which they happened to be, but because they had an unusual, or peculiar, Ordinary, to whom they were responsible, in the person of the king, or of the lord of the manor.

At the Reformation, by an oversight they were not restored to the jurisdiction of the diocese, but remained under the Sovereign, or other such person as by custom or purchase had obtained the right of superintendence.

Most peculiars were abolished in the reign of William IV., but a few royal instances remain to the present day, exempt from episcopal control.

Before beginning a general description of the church, it might be well to quote a short account of its unrestored condition so that we may get a clear idea of the amount of modern work to be found in it, and also that we may understand the justification for that work at the time of restoration. "The Chancel was low, dark, and damp; the walls were so much shattered and out of the perpendicular that a collapse was threatened, and the roofs were too rotten to be safely trodden by the workmen. The furniture was very mean—the pulpit,

reading pew, the clerk's desk, all of deal, rose one above the other in the approved fashion of seventy years ago—the pews were high and narrow—an ugly gallery at the west end blocked up the tower arch—indeed the whole aspect, internally, was most depressing and disheartening. Outside, too, great difficulties faced the restorer; for the burials of many generations had so raised the surface of the ground that it not only stood some feet higher than the Church floor, but in some parts almost peeped into the windows. Mr. R. Reynolds Rowe, F.S.A., of Cambridge, was called upon to report as to what should be done. His suggestions were, in the main, carried out. The principal works executed may be thus summarised:—The tower masonry has been thoroughly repaired, and the battlements renewed in Ketton stone; the bells have been rehung, and new floors, etc., provided in the tower; two of the piers, and the bases of all those between the nave and the north aisle being crushed, the clerestory walls were shored up, and the defective masonry was renewed in hard stone upon huge masses of concrete; the roofs of the nave and north aisle were entirely renewed and recovered with lead; a new stone porch was added on the north side; the chancel was entirely rebuilt on the old foundation, the ancient windows and buttresses being very properly incorporated into the new work; on the north side of the chancel a vestry and an organ chamber were built. Several ancient tombs have been preserved. The ancient Norman font has been placed upon a base of suitable character; two fine hagioscopes were discovered, one at the end of each aisle, to give views of the altar through the jambs of the chancel arch.”¹

This is a very valuable report and helps to explain several points which might be perplexing, as we shall see later on.

It is advisable to go round the outside of the church and to examine the walls, etc., for traces of old work, or for alterations of plan, evidences which may be obscured in various ways on the inner surface of the walls, before attempting to investigate

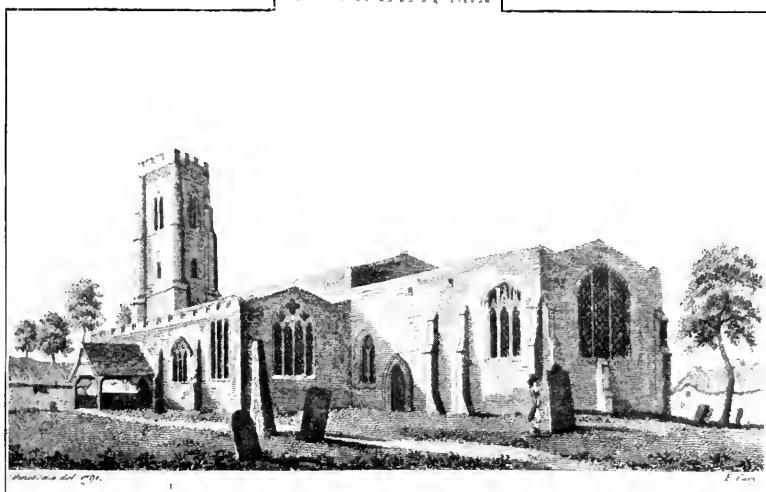
¹Leicester Architectural and Archaeological Transactions, 1881.
Vol. V., pp. 180-1.

the interior, but in cases like the present, where so much rebuilding, or renewal of decayed stonework, has been done, little will be gained by such an examination, and we must fall back upon old illustrations if we desire to learn what the appearance of the unrestored church was like. Unfortunately Rothley has not been illustrated to any great extent. Mr. Gough Nichols in his "Literary Remains of the late J. S. Hardy, 1852," has provided a sketch of the Cross on the south side, with a view of the church in the background. Nichols, in his "History of Leicestershire" has given a picture somewhat more in detail drawn from the S. E. The general plan of the building is about the same as to-day. The Porch, a wooden structure, is shown as covering the south entrance, east of it comes a three-light traceried window: the south-east window of the aisle is shown as a tall square-headed opening, with two perfectly straight mullions dividing the window into three lights. The east window of the aisle is of four lights with a traceried head in a pointed arch. There is a so-called Priests' door by the south-west window of the chancel, which window consists of two lights with a slightly pierced head under a pointed arch. Two substantial buttresses, each of two stages, standing fairly close together come next, while at the south-east are two buttresses of similar size.

The east window of the chancel is shown under a pointed arch with two upright mullions rising without a break up to the underside of the arch. Below the sill of this window is shown a small buttress of two stages placed in the centre of the wall. The chancel has a somewhat shallow and sloping pediment at each end of which rises a short oblique line which seems to indicate that along each side ran a low and entirely plain parapet.

So much for the ancient appearance of a part of the church, the only part of which it is possible now to get any kind of description, and by comparison we may learn something of what has been done in the way of alteration and rebuilding. The south porch is gone, the windows have all been renewed, with the possible exception of a small part of the tracery of the east window of the south aisle and part of the south-west window of

ROTHLEY, S.E.



THE CHURCH IN 1791, FROM NICHOLS' HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE.



Photo, by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

INTERIOR OF NAVE—LOOKING EAST.

the chancel. In the rebuilding the "priests'" door was not refixed, the two buttresses were so modified as to form the end walls of an entirely new internal recess in the south wall of the chancel. Beyond this a two-light window, which is a copy of Early English design, has been inserted, and the south-east window of two lights with cusped heads surmounted by a pierced plate of stone is also a renewal. The east window is entirely new, and the buttress below its sill has been destroyed except the foundation which still remains some two feet below the surface of the pathway. The walls of the present east-end rest upon ancient foundations, probably of early 13th century date, and the buttress above mentioned may possibly indicate the east end of this time. The buttress of two stages shown on the print we have been describing may have been merely a remnant of a much larger buttress which once rose to a considerable height between two large Early English lancet windows, replaced, it may have been in the 17th, or 18th, century when the predecessor of the present window was inserted, as indicated by the plain, degenerate mullions shown in Nichols' print. Above the roof of the south aisle at the east end of the clerestory wall may be seen a few old stones in their original position, but on the whole, we may say that the outside now reveals very little of any real importance, and that it is, practically, an entirely renewed and modern structure.

Let us begin our investigation of the interior from the chancel and proceed westwards. Here, in the south wall of the Sanctuary we may see an attempt to reproduce Early English work. It is not intended to represent what was originally here. As it now stands we have a double piscina in its proper place at the south end of the altar, followed by a triple sedilia. The foliated work on these is very elaborate, but Nichols, shows only a sedilia of two seats having a very simply moulded cap and base. The new window openings in the south wall have already been mentioned. A little to the west from the sanctuary is the modern recess referred to in a previous paragraph, wherein is placed the table-tomb of Thomas Babington of 15th century work, which will be described later on, together with the monu-

ment above and a little westward of it. On the north side within the Sanctuary is a window of Early English lancet type, but it appears to be entirely new. It is well to remember that the whole of the north wall, and the organ chamber are quite modern.

Before we leave the chancel a reference may be made to an interesting problem as to the position of the Altar there and the length of the original chancel—if one existed at all before that which was demolished at the last restoration—which is raised by the angle, or direction, in which the two openings, one into each aisle, are placed. The usual name given to these openings is “Squint,” but sometimes the Greek word “Hagioscope,” which means a sacred, view is used. The generally accepted theory concerning these openings is that they were intended to enable worshippers in aisles to get a view of the elevation of the Host at the time of its consecration in the Office of Mass, or for them to see the Sanctuary light as it hung before the Altar. At Bridgewater parish church, for instance, the openings lead through three walls into a north porch. If this were the real purpose, then in the instance at Rothley the line of vision would come to the point of focus at about the position marked “A” on the ground plan. This might indicate one of two conditions. Either the altar was placed much in front of its present position, or the east end has been, at some time, rebuilt further eastwards, and the altar has gone with it. It is not an unknown condition for there to be some considerable space between the altar and the eastern wall of the chancel, as for example at Sawley in Derbyshire, but no evidence can possibly be obtained that such an arrangement was ever adopted at Rothley; neither is there any probability that an extension of the original chancel ever took place, for the east wall appears, as before stated, to rest upon an ancient substructure. The theory upon which the above has been founded is, however, by no means an entirely accepted hypothesis, and the following facts may be set against it.

1. Usually the smaller of the two ends, if there is any difference is towards the altar, and as a result the view eastwards is very much restricted.

2. Only a very limited number of observers would, under any condition, be able to get any view at all.
3. Such openings do not invariably lead to the altar.

It is quite evident that the arrangement served some use of great importance, and it may have been that the opening was for the purpose of conveying the sound of the officiating priest's voice, as through a sort of trumpet, to the east end of an aisle, where there would also be an altar, or, it has been suggested, it might have been for observation of a side chapel. Mr. Francis Bond in his book on the chancel of English churches, admits that the purpose of Squints is by no means certain.¹ And sir Henry Dryden in an article on "Squints and Dials," in which he asks for information and help in research, after describing a number in the county of Northampton, and a few elsewhere, sums up as follows:—"The conclusion from the evidence is that in the few cases of large openings between the nave and chancel, such openings were for the use of some of the congregation, and, possibly, partly for sound; that in *all* other cases the openings were for use of officials and not for worshippers; and that in the great majority of cases the observers looked *from* the chancel, viz. the east end—*to* the aisle, viz. the west end; and that in most cases the opening enabled a person in the chancel to see a person officiating at the side altar; but as yet I have not got any evidence to show the office of the person who used the Squint, or the object of his looking through it."² Here we may very well leave the subject, for it is certain we have little more evidence to form an opinion upon than sir Henry Dryden had in 1896.

We now come to consider the north arcade and must recollect that two of its pillars, the first and the third, from the east are entirely new, as are their bases. The first opening which may be described as half an arch is nothing more than a recent piercing of what was once a solid wall. The pillar from

¹p. 250.

²"Squints and Dials" by Henry E. L. Dryden; Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers. Vol. XXIII., pt. 2, 1896, p. 354 et seq.

which it springs, with its unusual section, its square fillets continued through the neck of the cap, together with the V-shaped quirk running round the top stone, or abacus, might very well be mistaken for a re-cut, or restored specimen of early work, but from the restoration account we know it is not. Under the arch there is, however, a corbel of ancient work, possibly 15th century, now built into the wall, and this is in all probability the bracket upon which stood the statue of "Our Lady" before which a "serge" (a wax taper, or candle) was to "bren" (burn) as we shall learn later on. The four complete arches of this arcade are pointed in shape, and of two orders, but the recesses are sharply cut at right-angles to the wall-plane, with no trace of a chainfer such as is usually to be found on the members of arches of true "Gothic" character. Most likely they belong to the latter end of the "Romanesque" style of Architecture, that is to late Transitional Norman, c. 1170-80. We must carefully remember that these terms are descriptive only as to methods of construction, and not really to forms of arches or details of ornament. In "Romanesque" work the building depends for its strength, or stability, mainly upon the thickness of its walls, as may be seen in the nave and tower of St. Nicholas' Church, Leicester; while in "Gothic" the builders were striving after economy of stone, and so tried to strengthen their thin walls by making masses of masonry which projected outwards considerably at their bases to carry the thrusts of arches, or of sloping walls, etc., safely to the ground. These "buttresses" are typical of "Gothic," so Romanesque is aptly described as "Wall construction," and "Gothic" as "buttress construction."

All the pillars, except the third which is only a copy, tend to confirm the date given above, as does also the western respond. They are circular in section, and have octagonal caps, the abacus of each being ornamented with a typical quirk or V-shaped cut. The neck is "bell-shaped" and moderately long, divided from the shaft by a simple plain roll mould. The circular bases, which are placed upon eight-sided plinths, have a shallow, and somewhat undeveloped, "water hollow" cut on their upper surface, evidently an early form of a very common ornamentation in Early English work of the first part of the 13th century.

Altogether, one can say that this arcade has a moderately early appearance, in spite of its renewals and serious scrapings, and we may place its period of erection late in the 12th century, some years before fully-developed Gothic designing appeared.

Turning round at the west end of the tower we may see that the eastern face has some large stones built into it which are uncommonly like true Norman work, wide jointed and massive; and it is quite possible that the jambs of the arch are also of Norman origin, but re-cut in the early years of the 15th century, so as to resemble the prevailing "Perpendicular" style which was then at the height of its development. The base of the tower almost certainly rests upon Norman foundations. It may be of interest at this point to describe the tower which was omitted when we were considering the outside of the church. It is built in three stages of granite, or syenite rubble with worked stone dressings. It has a western entrance with moulded jambs and arch surmounted by an ornamented head. Over this is a three-light traceried window filled with stained glass. Above this is the second story or ringing chamber, the lighting of which is provided for by three small quatrefoil windows, one on each of the three faces N., W., and S., and a small plain pointed opening on the E. The third story is the bell-chamber; with a large two-light window, having tracery of Early Perpendicular design covered by "drip stones" or "hood moulds" on each of its four faces. At the top of this stage, just below the roof, there are signs of its having been surmounted by a spire, or, at least, that such an erection was intended, for across each of the corners "squinches" have been built to carry the alternate sides of an octagonal steeple. At present the top is finished by an embattled parapet, moulded along the top, and furnished with three openings, or embrasures, on each side; but these are modern. Below the battlement is a band of ornament with quatrefoil tracery. The four corners are strengthened by shallow buttresses rising in four stages almost to the summit. At the base there is the usual plinth with moulded top. The whole structure is typical of many towers to be found in the Wreake and Soar valleys.

The bells are five in number, cast in 1784. The following details are copied from North's "Church Bells of Leicestershire." p. 267.

1. E. ARNOLD LEICESTER FECIT 1784. LONG LIFE AND PROSPERITY TO OUR WORTHY SUBSCRIBERS.
2. THE FOUNDER WILL REJOICE TO HEAR THAT ALL OUR VOICES PLEASE THE EAR.
3. I TO THE POOR AND NEEDY AM A FRIEND FOR WHOSE RELIEF I CALL YOU TO ATTEND.
4. FOUR BELLS CAST INTO FIVE BEING THE FIRST BELLS CAST AT LEICESTER BY E. ARNOLD 1784.
5. JOSEPH NEWBOLD AND DANIELL PAGETT CHURCHWARDENS E. ARNOLD FECIT 1784 HENRY WOODCOCK VICAR.
I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL
AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL.

WEIGHT 12 CWT.

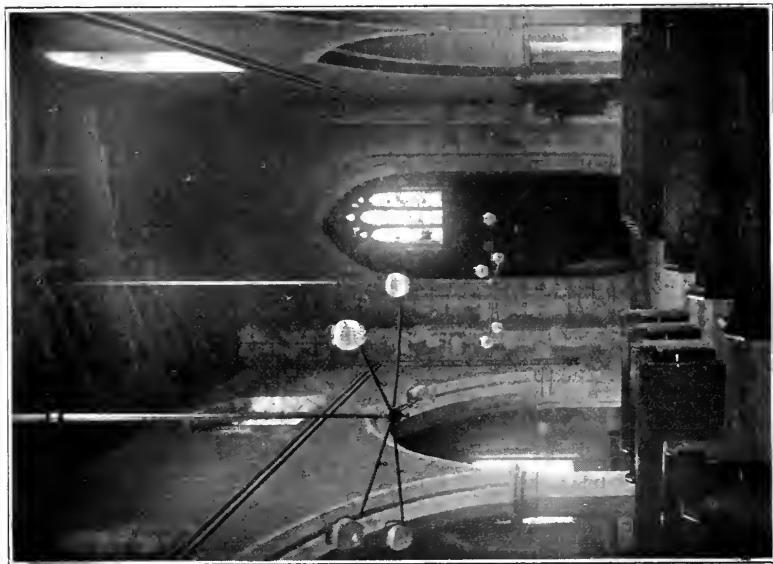
In 6 Edward VI. there were "foore belles and a saunce (sanctus) bell."

The following is an extract from the Parish-book under the date 28th September 1784: "Mr. Arnold's bill for recasting the Bells £95 7s. 9d."

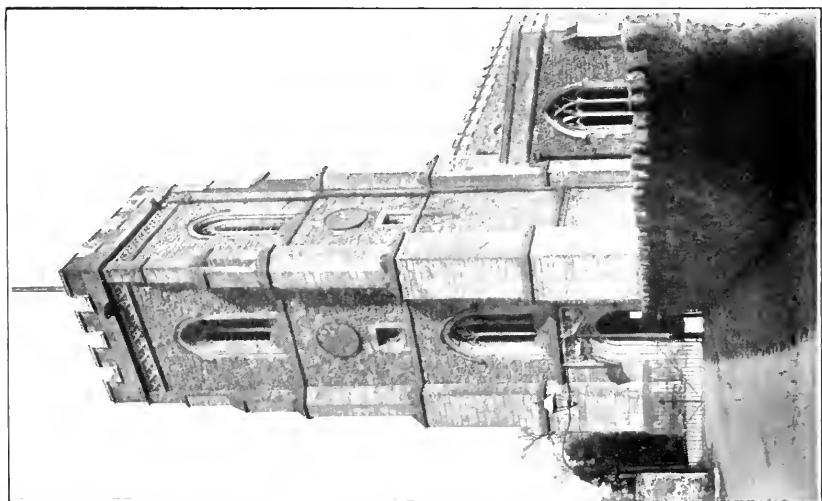
This outlay was met partly by a rate, and partly by a subscription of £55 2s. 6d.

The Curfew has been recently discontinued and a school bell rung at 9 a.m. instead. The Pancake-bell is rung on Shrove-Tuesday at noon.

To return to the inside of the church again, we come to the south arcade, and here we find four arches, each of two members but differing from those on the north side in having both orders chamfered. The pillars are octagonal with similarly shaped caps and bases. The caps are very simply moulded, with short necks, and a 14th or possibly late 13th century scroll moulded at the top of the shaft. The bases rest upon great blocks of squarely cut stone, which may be the remains of a Norman south wall.



Photo, by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.
THE NAVE—LOOKING WEST.



Photo, by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.
THE TOWER—FROM THE S.W.

Above the arches of each arcade there is a line of clerestory windows, of 15th century date, four on either side, each consisting of three lights. The Nave roof is modern, except for the tie beams which belong to the XV. cent., but there are clear indications of an earlier steeply-pitched roof, which began to rise just below the sills of the clerestory windows. When these were added a flat roof became a necessity, and it remained until the last restoration. The roof of the north aisle seems always to have been somewhat flat, but there is reason to suppose that the covering of the south aisle was originally in the form of a steeply inclined roof rising to a ridge in the centre. It may be noticed that a curious alteration of level occurs at the east end so as to *clear* the crown of the window arch without in any way damaging the outline.

We have now completed the round of the building, and may be able to form some idea of the way it has developed in plan. The original building was, most likely, an oblong, aisleless structure with a very short chancel. This may have been rebuilt by the Normans soon after the Conquest, as an oblong aisleless church, but furnished with a tower. Then, in the middle of the 12th century, a north aisle was added and other structural alterations made. The window at the east end of this aisle, with its two mullions geometrically intersecting in the head, is an insertion of 14th century work of c. 1320. In the early years of the 13th century, that is in the first period of "Gothic" work, the chancel was probably erected, and at the end of the same century when the "Decorated," or second Gothic period had well begun, the south aisle was built, as is indicated by the pillars, and the piscina at the south-east corner of the aisle, and part of the tracery of the east window. It is, however, only right to point out that this opening has at the inside edge of its jambs, slender shafts with little caps and bases which are distinctly of Early English type, but it is not always easy to interpret such indefinite signs as to date. The stones which form the window opening may have been moved from some other, and earlier, site; and fresh tracery inserted on re-erection; or the windows may have been the ending of the aisle in some earlier form, which is not now visible, and the tracery changed at the subsequent rebuilding, or alteration, of the aisle.

The tower as it now stands forms the completion of the edifice and was erected about the first quarter of the 15th century.

We turn now from the interest attached to the fabric of the church, to examine the features of its interior, and shall still find much to claim our attention, which must always be the case in ancient sacred buildings, seeing that they retain and preserve evidences of the work, together with the thought and feeling, expended upon them by former generations.

I. THE FONT.

This is a most interesting specimen of a cylindrical limestone font of the Norman period c. 1160. It has a very effective but simple chevron pattern covering the whole bowl, an ornament sometimes used on the sculptured piers of Norman work. Possibly the font might be a portion of a column of that period, as was the case at Wilne in Derbyshire of Saxon date.

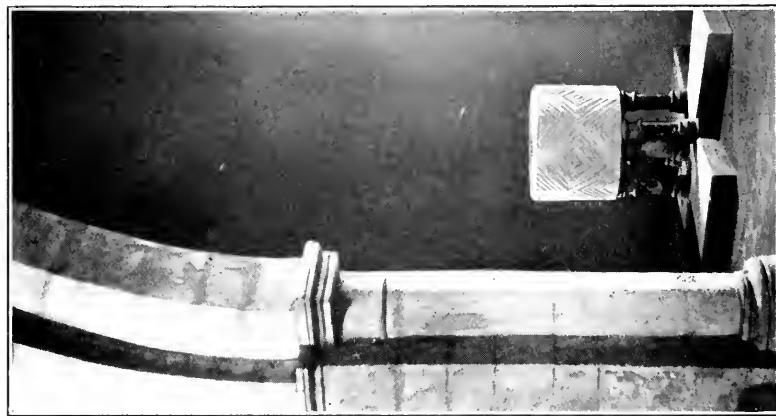
It has been illustrated by Paley, in whose time it stood, raised on a modern base at the west end of the nave; and is so illustrated in Spencer's Leic. Notes and Queries, Vol. II., page 24.

At the restoration a baptistry was formed at the west end of the N. aisle, and the present base provided as shown on the photograph.

The height of the bowl is 20 inches, the diameter 25½ inches, depth of the interior 12 inches. It had neither a lead lining nor water drain before it was fixed in its present position. There are traces of iron staples in the rim, in two places, showing that at one time the font cover had been compulsorily locked in accordance with the celebrated decree of Pope Gregory IX in 1236.

II. THE SCREEN.

In all churches it was needful to mark in some manner a division between that part of the edifice reserved for the sacred offices and the larger portion, which might be, and often was, used for the assembling of parishioners for purposes not at all times distinctly religious. With this intention, the limits of the



Photo, by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

WESTERN IMPOST OF NORTH ARCADE, SHEWING NORMAN FONT.



Photo, by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

THE CHANCEL SCREEN (XV. CENT.)
(the upper portion is modern.)

chancel were rigidly fixed, if possible, by means of a screen. In Rothley church this necessity was met in the mid-fifteenth century by one of traceried oak of unusually beautiful craftsmanship. It was, in all likelihood, the work of one person, and upon it he expended rare gifts of design and executive skill.

This 15th century oak chancel screen has seven compartments, eight moulded uprights or mullions, with richly moulded and embattled transomies, beautifully proportioned cusped heads, with crocketted ogival ribs. The upper portion terminating in a coved cornice is largely missing, but there are sufficient remains to indicate its original splendid finish. The subjects carved in the spandrels and other salient points include: A pelican in her piety, her quaint brood containing birds of several sizes—A double-headed eagle with outstretched wings and mask under—A figure of a man seated and set upside down!—interlacing stems and foliage and other curious details. No traces can be found of gilding or painting.

In Nichols' time the screen had on it "Jonathan Leake and Thomas Bywater, Churchwardens, 1790." Also "two tables of benefactions," 1664-1694. (Vol. iii., 960.)

It will be noted that the back of the screen, is, like others of this date, devoid of moulded or carved work of any description, and left entirely rough from the adze. The architect will also notice the frequent use of the 'stonemason stop' in place of the mitre.

These details are well shewn on Mr. Herbert's carefully measured drawing, illustrated on plate No. 4.

The whole appearance is enhanced by the fact that the material is not 'selected' but that knots, irregular grain, and twists, and other so called "defects" natural to English oak are frankly admitted, and thus a charm is imparted which is sadly lacking in the characteristic straight-grained, monotonous, machined articles usually insisted upon by modern restorers.

III. THE MONUMENTS.

In spite of the drastic restoration, or rather vandalism, that has taken place at various times in Rothley Church, one of its principal features of interest is its collection of monuments, but many of those recorded and figured by Nichols are now missing.

It is recorded, that when our local historian visited the church in 1790 he found lying on the north side of the churchyard the effigy of a Templar (?) which had evidently been cast out of the church—as was so often the case—to find room for the tomb of a member of one of the later families. “It would,” says Nichols, “be highly creditable to the cultivated talents of the present owner if so remarkable a relique of the Templars were again restored to its former situation. A very small sum would replace it in a manner that would reflect honour on the lord of the soke.”

This monument was accordingly replaced in the church in the year 1829, as recorded on a leaden tablet, which though formerly in the church, is now, together with the effigy, in the porch of the Temple chapel.

Some remains of an alabaster slab to Agnes Kingston are also there, as described in the article on the Temple. Thus all that remain of those mentioned by Nichols are the three following altar tombs, two wall monuments and an heraldic panel.

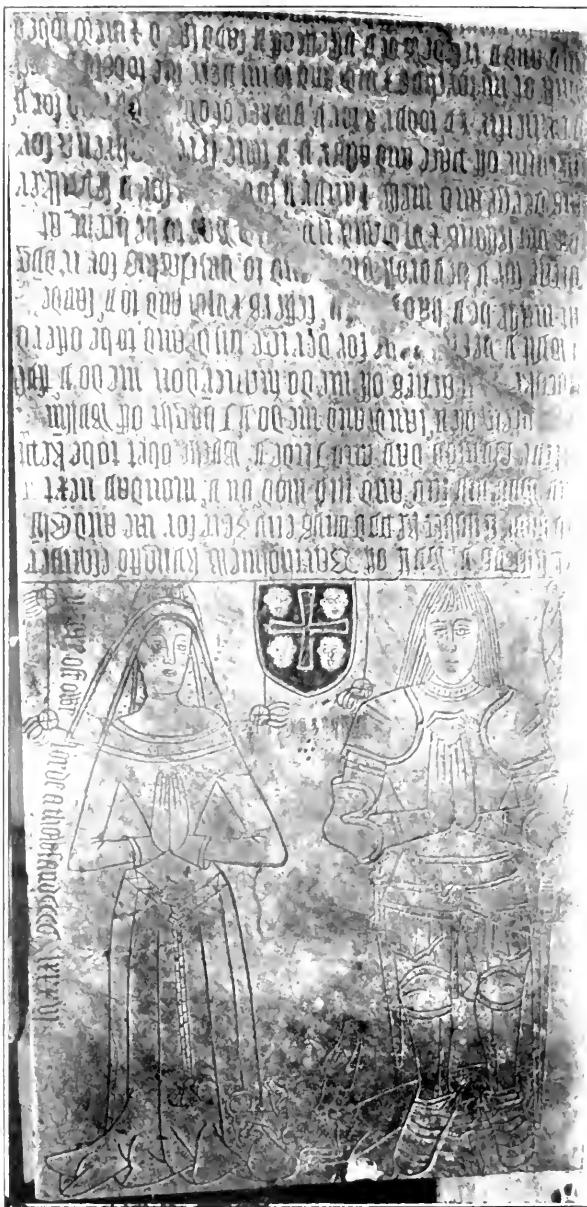
THE KYNGSTON MONUMENT.

The oldest of the three altar tombs is that situated at the east end of the N. aisle, and perpetuates not only the figures of Bartholomew and Elimor Kyngston, but also the will of the former, incised at the N. end of the slab, the figures of himself and wife being at the south end.

For facility of reading, the will and the figures are ingeniously reversed, the one to the other, although Nichols to save trouble to the reader of his work has placed them in his plate, the one above the other.

The date on this monument is 1486. There is a monument in the N. aisle of Gaddesby church to Willm' and Marye Darby (dated 1496) which is of similar treatment, with almost identical outline and drapery, suggesting that the two monuments are the work of the same craftsman. A John Derby was vicar of Rothley in the year 1461.

Mr. Farnham has discovered that Bartholomew Kyngston and his wife were both living in the year 1496, when



Printed by L. Neatby & Sons, Leicester.

THE KYNGSTON MONUMENT IN N. AISLE.



Measured Drawing by A. Herbert, A.R.I.B.A.

THE KYNGSTON MONUMENT IN N. AISLE,

the said Bartholomew gave the lands in Rothley in trust to pay certain sums yearly to the church of Rothley, after the decease of himself and wife, from which we must conclude that this monument was prepared during their lifetime.

The inscription of the tomb is as follows, the missing and conjectured words of which are supplied to me by Mr. Hamilton Thompson and shewn in brackets:—

THYS Y^E WYLL OFF BARTHOLOMEW KYNGST^O ESQUYER
 TO HAVE AN OBET KEPYD ONYS EUY YERE FOR ME AND E^LN
 MY WYFF MY FAD^R AND MY MOD^R ON Y^E MONDAY NEXT
 AFTYR SYMOD DAY AND JUDE Y^E WYCHE OBET TO BE KEPT
 [OUT OF THE] PROFETTS OFF Y^E LAND['] AND MEDO Y^T I BOGHT OFF WYLLM[—]
 ADCOKE [VIZ] ij ACARS OFF MEDO IN QUERDON MEDO Y^E FFY^E ST
 I WYLL Y^E VIC[ar h] AVE FOR DERIGE iiijd AND TO BE OFFERD
 AT MASSE BE Y^E HA[DYS OFF] Y^E FEFFERS xvjd AND TO Y^E SAYDE
 VECAR FOR Y^E BEYDROLL viij [D] AND TO viij CLARKIS FOR REDYG
 OFF viij LESSONS xvjd AND ij [SERGES OF] WAX TO BE BRENT AT
 HIS DERGE AND MESSE & AFTYR Y^T TO [BREN] AFOR Y^E SEPULKER
 IN TYME OF PACE AND AFTYR Y^E TONE [SETT TO] BREN AFOR
 Y^E CRUCIFIX & Y^E TODYR AFOR Y^E YMAGE OF OW[R] LADY [AND] FOR Y^E
 WAST OF iiijd TORCHYS xvjd AND TO iiijd PORE M[EN] TO HOLD [Y^E TOR]CH[ES]
 iiijd AND Y^E RESEDEW OF Y^E PROFFETTS OF Y^E SAYD LAND & MEDO TO BE DIS
 POSYD IN MEYTE & DRYNKE AMONG PORE MEN.
 Y^E YERE OFF OW[R] LORD A THOWSAND CCCCLXXXVj

Line 7. DERIGE = Lat. DIRIGE. (Dirige Dominus meus, in conspectu tuo viam meam. Ps. V. 8) the opening antiphon of the psalms at matins of the dead, which were commonly called *Dirige*, just as vespers of the dead, for a similar cause were called *Placebo*. Hence comes the English word 'dirge' for a funeral hymn. *Derge* below is simply the English form of *dirige*.

Line 8. FEFFERS = Lat. FEOFFATORES, *i.e.*, the feoffees or persons enfeoffed of the lands to hold them in trust.

Line 10. SERGE = a wax candle or taper (Fr. cierge).

Line 12 & 13. YE TONE = the one. YE TODYR = the other.

It will be noticed in line 13 of this inscription that one of the serges (wax tapers) was to be brent (burned) before the image of our Lady, and under the half arch of the N. arcade on the left side of the chancel arch, about seven feet from the floor is a stone corbel or bracket. Its unusual position suggests that it has been refixed here. In all probability this corbel was once on the

left hand side of the tomb, where now the modern vestry door is, and it doubtless supported the 'image of our Lady' above alluded to.

This monument is illustrated on page 12 and need not be further described here.

THE VINCENT MONUMENT.

Next in order of date is an alabaster altar tomb of the 16th cent. at the east end of the south aisle to Robert Vincent and his two wives, "Margerya" and "Thomasina." The year is 1520, but the inscription is only partly dated, for spaces have been kept open for other dates which have never been filled in.

The inscription reads as follows:—

Hic jacent Robertus Vincent & Margerya et THOMASINA UXOR'ES
EJUS Q QUIDEM ROBERTUS
OBIIT . . . DIE . . . MENSIS . . . ANNO . . . VI CESS IMO
ANIMABZ PPICIET OMIPOTENS DE AME

THE KYNGSTON ARMS.

On the south wall of the S. aisle is an alabaster panel of the Arms of George Kyngston impaling those of his wife, Mary the daughter of sir William Skeffington of Skeffington, the lord deputy for Ireland under Henry VIII. The shield, with helm and crest, has as supporters, two mermaids, combing their hair; (or vide Nichols, their heads). He died 30 Sep.

This panel is all that remains of a low altar tomb of alabaster in the south chapel, which existed in Nichols' time. It was on the north side of the tomb, and contains the following coats of arms.

Quarterly 1 and 4. Kyngston.

2 and 3. Erm. a chevron, Sable, over it a leopard's head or, a chief Sa.

Impaling 1. Arg. 3 Bull's heads erased [Skeffington].

2. A. Bend cotized between 6 mullets Or.

3. Erm. 3. Leopards Or.

4. Arg. 3. Birds Sa.

Crest. A goat erect Arg. against a date-tree vert.



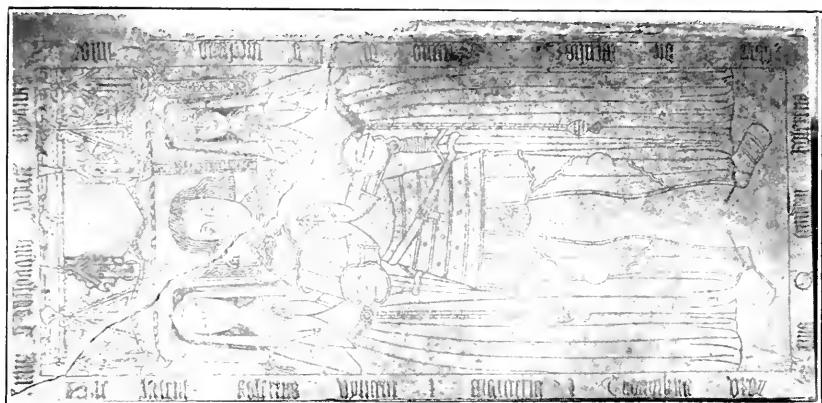
THE KYNGSTON ARMS.

KYNGSTON ARMS, IMPALING SKIFFINGTON, IN SOUTH AISLE.



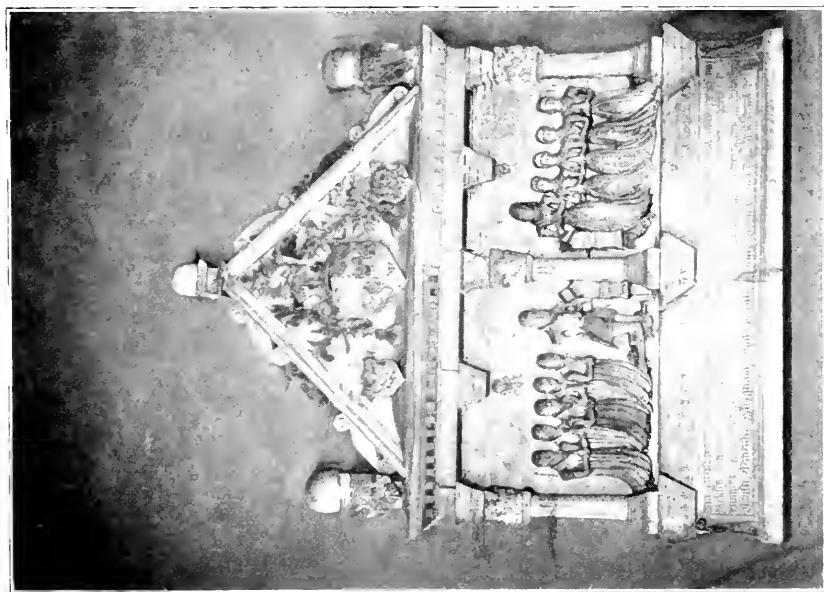
THE BARINGTON MONUMENT.

THE BARINGTON MONUMENT ON SOUTH SIDE OF CHANCEL.
(Dated 1544).



Photo, by J. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

THE VISCOUNT MONUMENT IN N. AISLE, 1452.



Photo, by J. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

THE BARINGTON MONUMENT IN N. AISLE
(Dated 1567).

On the north wall of the N. aisle towards the east end, is a 16th cent. monument to Thomas Babington and Alienara his wife. The monument is divided into two compartments with an enriched pediment enclosing the arms and crest of Babington. Thomas Babington is in full armour, his wife being in a black coif and rich gown, and both of them kneel at a desk with books. Behind him are five sons, and behind her four daughters, all in a kneeling attitude.

Below is the following inscription :—

HIC JACENT COPORA THOMAE BABINGTON NUP DE TEMPLE
ROTHELEY ARMIGERI QUI OBIIT XXVIII⁰ DIE
MENSIS OCTOBRIS ANNO DMI 1567 ET ALIENORAE UXORIS EJUS
UNA FILIARUM RICARDI
HUMFREY AR QUAE OBIIT AN DNI QUORU
ANIMAE BEATISSIMI AC CHARISSIMI
CHRISTI CLEMENTIA ABRAHAMI SINU ET CETU FIDELIUM
ETERNA PACE QUIESCUNT

which translated reads :—

Here lie the bodies of Thomas Babington, late of Temple, Rotheley, who died Oct. 28, 1567, and Eleanor his wife, one of the daughters of Richard Humfrey, Esq., who died [] anno Domini [] whose souls rest in eternal peace by the clemency of the most blessed and most charitable Christ, in Abraham's bosom and the company of the faithful.

This monument in Nichols' time, was on the *south* side of the north chapel, and was probably removed to its present position when the half arch of the N. arcade was inserted. It will be noticed that blanks have been left for the insertion of the date of the death of Eleanor, which was never recorded. This leaving of blanks for dates to be afterwards inserted was not at all infrequent from the 14th to the 16th centuries, and in most cases points to the conclusion that the monuments were erected during the lifetime of those whose memory they perpetuate.

On the S. wall of the chancel is a marble tablet with busts of Matthew Babington of Temple Rothley, and Anne his wife,

their right hands joined over a skull. Above are the arms of Babington impaling Sable, on a Chevron argent, between 3 Arquebuses or, 3 lozenges gules (Hopkins.)

The lengthy inscription is given in full in Nichols, but part of it is rather curious for it records that "They had issue 4 sons and 8 daughters at 12 single births before the eldest was 12 years and 3 quarters old a daughter not born alive proved also fatal to her mother who died the 7th day of June, An. 1648, in the 33rd year of her age."

On the south side of the chancel, within a modern recess, formed between two buttresses is the 16th cent. altar tomb of Humfrey Babington and his wife Eleanor. He is represented on an incised alabaster slab as an "old man in a gown, short slit sleeves and ruffles, in his hand a rosary." She has a "pointed head-dress, long sleeves and ruffles, a pouch, rosary, sash, and belt." Their seven sons and five daughters are also represented. The following is the inscription.

- (1) HIC JACET HUMFRID BABYNGTON ARMIGER,
ET ELEANORA EXOR EJUS, ET FILII CÙ FILLIAB'
EORUND! QUI QUIDEM HUMFRID
- (2) OBIIT XXII DIE MENSIS NOVEMBRIS
- (3) ANNO DNI MCCCCXLIII QUORUM ANIMABUS
PPICET' DE' AMEN.

On the eastern end of the north face, is a figure of a man kneeling at a desk with this inscription :—

THOMAS BABYNGTON ARMIGER FIL' ET HERES HUMFREDI
ARMIGERI NUPER DEFUNCTI. PRECOR UT FILII
CORPORI PROPRICETUR DE' ET AIE PATRIS HIC
JACENTIS ET OMNIUM FIDELIU AMEN

which translated reads :—

Thomas Babington, Esq., son and heir of Humfrey, Esq., lately deceased. Pray that God have mercy on the body of the son, and the soul of the father lying here, and of all the faithful. Amen.

Adjoining the same on the right side are the following arms :
Quarterly 1 & 4. (Babington).

2 & 3. (Dethick.)

Impaling Beaumont.

Crest, a goat's head, on the horns a label.

The supporters to this coat of arms are very curious. They consist of two baboons, chained, and beneath, near to each is a barrel or tun. This is what is termed in heraldry a *rebus*, being a punning representation of the surname Babington (Babootun).

Among the paving stones at the east end of the north aisle are several fine Swithland slabs, the carving of which has unusually bold relief, well worthy of inspection. The east end of the south aisle was similarly paved, but the slabs of slate have been displaced by an execrable array of modern memorial tablets—at any rate from a craftsman's point of view—amongst which will be found some to the memory of former vicars.

THE CHURCHYARD AND SAXON CROSS.

Before the restoration of the church in 1876-7, the graveyard, owing to continual burials, had caused the mounds to rise, almost to the level of the windows. The churchyard has been closed now for several years and the ground has been lowered to the level of the paths; but some idea of the original state may be gathered from a portion still remaining on the western side, which is still in its original condition.

The north side of the churchyard is appropriated to the burials of the inhabitants of that part of Mountsorrel which is within the parish. Several members of the Macaulay family are buried on the east side of the churchyard.

On the south side of the church, stands a Saxon Obelisk or Cross Shaft, the most interesting example of its kind to be found in the county.

It is about 12 feet high, 21 inches by 17 inches at the bottom and tapering to about half these measurements at the top. Leland and Burton make no mention of it, and Nichols simply observes "In the Churchyard of Rothley is a handsome Runic Cross, but there is no tradition respecting it."

It is of coarse millstone grit, and of Derbyshire origin.

The four faces of the pillar are "dished" one inch deep, leaving a projecting fillet about three inches wide on each edge. In the panels formed by the fillet there is a pro-

fusion of ornament of recurring scroll work, and other "subjects" but for the most part dim and undefinable. There is no certainty as to its date, which may be ascribed to any period in the 9th and 10th centuries, and there are no special marks of Christian symbols or influences.

Mr. M. Pearson has measured and drawn to scale the whole of the four sides, which together with a descriptive account, are published in Spencers' Illustrated Leicester Almanac 1903 (pp. 15-18), and there is an engraving and account of it in Hardy's Literary Remains (1852).

REGISTERS.

The Parish Registers date from the year 1562 to the present time, the entries being contained in 9 volumes previous to the year 1813, after which date they are of the usual regulation form. The following entry in the Register of Burials is of special interest :—

"Samuel, son of John Sheffield, *though he lived on the demesne land* was buried in Rothlye Churchyard by consent, Oct. 13, 1707."

The Marriages from the year 1562 to the civil registration of 1837 were extracted by Mr. H. Hartopp and printed in 1912 in Phillimore's Parish Registers Series, Leicester, Vol. vii., where a full description of the earlier volumes is given. Only one marriage is recorded to have taken place in the chapel attached to Rothley Temple, viz:—"William Beley and Ursula Pratt were married in Rothley Temple 1, Dec., 1641." A duplicate Register of Baptisms and Burials at the Temple Chapel (18th and 19th centuries) is preserved with the records in the Archdeaconry Registry at Leicester.

THE PLATE.

The Church Plate, which includes a flagon dated 1685 will be found fully described in the Rev. Anthony Trollope's "Church Plate of Leicestershire, with some accounts of the Donors."

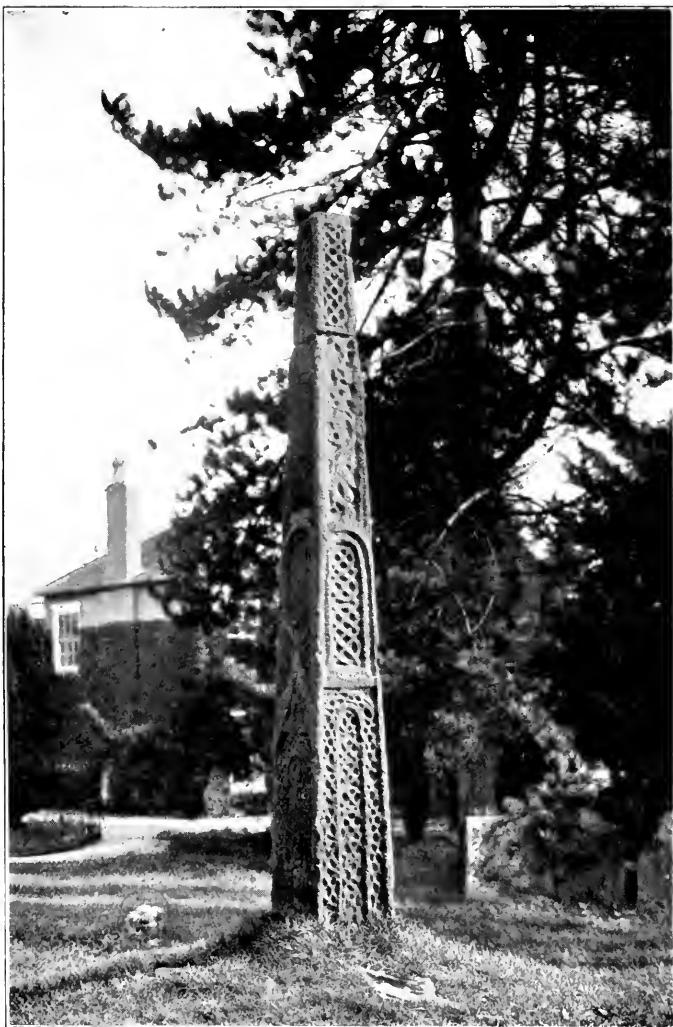


Photo. by A. Newton & Sons, Leicester.

SAXON CROSS IN CHURCHYARD.

WINDOW GLAZING.

The only ancient stained glass is a series of fragments, re-worked into an irregular mosaic, and fixed in the upper portion of the traceried head of the east window in the S. aisle. They are probably the remains of the Coats of Arms, of Segrave, Kyngston, Quincy, and other families, which Burton, the historian, in 1622 describes as then being in the windows. One fragment probably represents St. John Baptist and may have some reference to the Dedication.

All of the windows in the chancel, two of the three-light windows in the N. aisle, and the lower portions of the south aisle window above referred to, are fitted with modern stained glass, and with the exception of these and the window over the tower entrance, the remainder of the church windows throughout have clear or tinted glass.

WAR MEMORIALS.

At the west end of the nave on the north wall is an oak triptych recording the names of 264 Rothley men who served in the great war. It was presented to the church by Mrs. Broadhurst of Rothley Temple.

A new organ by Messrs. Norman & Beard, at a cost of £1,700, was erected in 1921, as a memorial to Rothley men, who fell in the same war.

DIMENSIONS.

The following are the principal dimensions of the fabric:—

Total length (external) of chancel, nave and tower, 139 feet 3 inches.

Total width (external) of nave and aisles, 62 feet.

The chancel (interior) is 41 feet 6 inches long by 17 feet wide by 26 feet high.

The nave (interior) is 66 feet 9 inches long by 17 feet 6 inches (average) wide by 31 feet high.

The north aisle is 70 feet 3 inches long by 14 feet 6 inches wide by 20 feet high.

The south aisle is 65 feet 6 inches long by 15 feet 5 inches wide by 20 feet high.

The tower externally, (north to south), is 26 feet 6 inches and 70 feet 6 inches high.

Other dimensions will be found on reference to the measured and sealed drawings.

THE VICARS OF ROTHLEY,

By A. Hamilton Thompson, F.S.A.

The advowson of Rothley was appendant to the manor, and included the advowsons of various chapels in scattered members of the manor and soke, viz., Gaddesby, Grimston, Keyham, Wartnaby, and Chadwell and Wycombe—a cardinal instance of the awkward effect of manorial organisation upon ecclesiastical arrangements. The patronage lay in the crown until the conveyance of the manor to the Knights Templars. At the time of the compilation of the *Matriculus* of Hugh of Wells, each of the chapels had its resident chaplain and 'all things which the mother church had,' *i.e.*, the administration of sacraments and sacramentals, rights of burial, tithes and oblations. etc. ; while all except Wartnaby paid their own synodal fees.¹ This implies some degree of independence of the mother church, which was considerably lessened some years later, when the vicarage was ordained. In addition, the rector of Rothley had an annual pension of half a mark out of the church of Wanlip, and one of ten shillings out of that of Rothley.²

The name of William the priest of Rothley occurs in a charter of the reign of Henry II. ;³ but whether he was actually rector or not is uncertain; and our first positive information with regard to an incumbent of the church is in the *Matriculus*, compiled in the third decade of the thirteenth century. From this point the list of incumbents begins.

1. Before 1235. John, nephew (*nepos*) of Geoffrey (*sic*), sometime legate. Patron : the Crown.

Rot. Welles I. 252.

This is the only rector whose name has been preserved to us,

¹Rot. Welles I, 259. ²Ibid. I, 253, 258. ³B.M. Cotton Charters V, 62.

and the printed copies of Hugh of Welles' *Matriculus* contain a serious error, reading *Gaufridi* instead of *Gualonis*. The legate of course, was the famous Gualo, bishop of Vercelli and cardinal priest of San Martino, who played a large part in English affairs during the last years of the reign of John and the minority of Henry III. His legation lasted from 1213 to 1218, and it was probably about 1218 that his nephew was instituted to Rothley. This nephew was undoubtedly John of Vercelli (*de Vergellis*), who is recorded as dying in or before 25 May 1277. At the time of his institution he must have been a mere boy.

The church of Rothley was appropriated to the Knights Templars by a decree of bishop Grosseteste, bearing date at Liddington, 21 August, 1240. By the same decree a vicarage was ordained in the church, consisting of the whole altarage of the church of Rothley, together with the parsonage house and all the demesne land of the church with its appurtenances, the entire fruits of the chapel of Gaddesby with its land and all appurtenances, the whole altarage of the chapels of Keyham, Grimston, and Wartnaby, with a virgate of land belonging to each of the three several chapels and its appurtenances, and the whole altarage of the chapel of Chadwell and Wycombe, similarly with a bovate of land. The vicar was bound to the cure of souls with personal residence, and with a deacon and clerk to assist him in the parish church. For the chapels he had to find chaplains and clerks at his own expense. He was to provide the books and ornaments of the mother church and chapels, so far as the rector was previously bound, and to pay all synodal fees to the ordinary. The archdeacon's procurations were settled by a special covenant between him and the Templars of Rothley, who in addition were charged with a yearly pension of four marks payable to him at Michaelmas. The Templars as rectors were charged with the necessary building and repair of the mother church and its chapels, without special reference to the chancels, although no doubt in practice their duties would be confined to this part of the buildings. At the same time, their position as lords of the manor would entail a contribution to repairs of the nave when necessary; but this would not be affected by the episcopal decree.

As usual, the appropriation was contingent upon the voidance of the church; and, as John of Vercelli did not die till 1277 or a

little earlier, the Templars did not enter into possession of the rectory until thirty-seven years after it had been confirmed to them. An inquisition was then held, owing to a doubt whether the great tithe of Gadesby, included in the vicar's portion, was equally balanced by pensions of ten shillings and half a mark from the churches of Skeffington and Wanlip respectively, and a yearly rent from the church of Rothley. It was found that the Gadesby tithe was a trifle, if anything, in excess of these pensions and rent, which were therefore transferred, for the sake of peace, from the rectors to the vicar, the rectors taking the Gadesby tithe in exchange. Bishop Gravesend's confirmation of Grosseteste's decree was issued, with this modification, at Stow Park on 25 May 1277, when the first vicar was instituted.¹ The list of vicars is as follows :

1. 1277, 25 May. Master William Brewer (*de Bruderia*), deacon, on the death of John of Vercelli. Patron : the master of the Templars in England. Rot. Gravesend, p. 160.
2. William of Barwell (*de Barewell*), succeeded William Brewer (*de la Bruere*) before Michaelmas 1284. Assize Roll 457, m. 26.
3. William of Warwick (*de Warewyk*), alive and dead in 1297. Coram Rege Roll 150, m. 16; De Banco Roll 119, m. 141 d.
4. 1297, 11 May. Gilbert Brewer (*de Brueria*), chaplain, on death of W. W. Patron : brother Brian de Jay, master, etc. Lincoln Reg. I., fo. 289.
5. 1306, 19 November. Thomas of Billesdon, chaplain, on res. of G. B. Patron : brother William de la More, master, etc. Reg. II., fo. 202.
6. 1309, 20 September. Master William of Tavistock, deacon, on death of T. B. Patron : the Crown, by reason of the lands of the Templars being in the king's hand.² Ibid, fo. 203 d.
7. 1329, 17 May. William of Halton, priest, on death of W. T. Patron : the Crown. Reg. IV., fo. 125 d.

¹Rot. Gravesend, pp. 162-164.

²William of Tavistock had letters of presentation 10 February 1307-8. Similar letters were granted to William of Hillum, 9 September, 1308, but obviously did not take effect (*Cal. Pat. Rolls 1307-13*, pp. 93, 100.)

8. 1341, 19 September. John of Chalford (*de Chalkeford*), deacon, on death of W. H. Patron: brother Philip of Thame, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. *Ibid.* fo. 159.

9. 1343. 14 October. John of Ashby (*de Assheby*), rector of the church of Rudbaxton (*Rudepaxton*), Pembrokeshire, by exchange with J. C. Inst. by the bishop of St. David's at Llawhaden (*Lawadayn*), Pembrokeshire, by commission. *Reg. VI.*, fo. 35.

10. 1346, 3 August. Richard of Overton, priest, rector of Braunston, Northants., by exchange with J. A. Patron: the prior, etc. *Ibid.* fo. 45.

11. 1349, 7 October. John of Stoke, priest, on death of R. O. Patron: the prior, etc. Still rector in 1376. *Reg. IX.*, fo. 346; B. M. Add. Charter 7101.

12. After 1376. John Cannewyk. *Reg. X.*, fo. 282 d.

13. 1383, 22 November. William Dunstable, rector of Bedfield (*Bedefeld*), Suffolk, by exchange with J. C. Patron: brother John Radyngton, prior, etc. Inst. by the bishop of Norwich at Charing by Westminster, by commission. *Ibid.*

14. Reymund Barker. *Reg. XI.*, fo. 221 d.

15. 1392, 30 April. Robert Burgh, rector of Wanlip (*Anlep*), by exchange with R. B. Patron: Hildebrand Inge, lieutenant of the prior, etc. *Ibid.*

16. 1402-3, 15 February. Richard Killom, rector of Asfordby, by exchange with R. Erdeburgh. Patron: brother Robert Normanton, lieutenant, etc. *Reg. XIII.*, fo. 199 and *d.*

17. 1408-9, 14 February. William Seuster, priest, on res. of R. K. Patron: brother Walter Grendon, prior, etc. *Reg. XIV.*, fo. 154.

18. In 1441, 1461. John Derby. B.M. Add. Charters 7235, 7239.

19. 1476, 10 April. John Persons, priest, on res. of J. Darby. Patron: brother Robert Multon, prior, etc. *Reg. XXI.*, fo. 70.

20. 1519, 6 October. Master Robert Pachett, LL.B., on res. of J. P. with annual pension of 4 marks. Patron: Thomas Docwra, prior, etc. Reg. XXV., fo. 40.

21. 1528, 3 August. Master James Willen, Dec. Bac., on res. of R. P. Patron: William Weston, prior, etc. Reg. XXVII., fo. 157.

22. 1532, 16 October. Master William Duckett, clerk, on res. of J. W. Patron: William Weston, etc. Ibid. fo. 160.

23. 1533, 22 September. Hugh Wodcoke, chaplain, on res. of W. D. with annual pension of 20s. Patron: William Weston, etc. Ibid. fo. 160 *d.*

24. 1550, 16 September. John Melwyn, clerk, on the death of last incumbent. Patron: the Crown. Compounded for first-fruits 21 August. Ibid. fo. 286 *d.*

25. 1553. John Burgland. Compounded for first-fruits 28 November.

26. William Heythcot. Lambeth Reg. Pole, fo. 45.

27. 1556-7, 12 February. Thomas Caslyn, clerk, on res. of W. H. Patron: Ambrose Cave, knight. Ibid.

28. 1561-2, 20 February. Harold Pagett, clerk, on death of last incumbent. Patron: Brian Cave, esq., brother of Ambrose Cave and grantee of advowson. Compounded for first-fruits 28 October, 1564. Lincoln Reg. XIX., fo. 129.

29. 1567. Robert Kendall, clerk, on res. of H. Pachet. Patron: Brian Cave of Ingarsby, esq., grantee of advowson for this turn. Compounded for first-fruits 4 May, 1568. Reg. XXVIII., fo. 57.

30. 1608, 14 December. Adrian Babington, M.A.¹ Curate in 1603.² Compounded for first-fruits 23 December, 1608 Bishop's Certificates; Liber. Cleri, fo. 37.

¹Son of Humphrey Babington, esq., of Rothley Temple. Of Ch. Ch. Oxford, B.A. 1601; M.A. 1604. Rector of Cossington 1607; prebendary of Gaia Major in Lichfield 31 October 1608. Died about September 1625, æt, 44 or 45.

²At this date there were 500 communicants in Rothley and the chapelries, and two men and two women recusants.

31. 1625-6, 3 January. William Staveley, M.A., on death of A. B. Patron : Thomas Babington, esq., of Temple Rothley. Compounded for first-fruits 15 February.
Presentation deeds 1625, no. 47; Bishop's Certificates.

32. 1653. Richard Maden. Compounded for first-fruits 13 May.

33. 1661, 12 or 14 October. Edward Ward. Patron : Matthew Babington, esq.
Reg. XXXII., fo. 12 *d.*; Liber Cleri 1662, fo. 164.

34. 1691, 25 June. Samuel Daniel, M.A. on death of E. W. Patron : Thomas Babington, esq.
Reg. XXXIV., fo. 122 *d.*

35. 1735-6, 3 February. William Babington, LL.B., on death of S. D. Patron : Thomas Babington, esq.
Reg. XXXVIII., p. 311.

36. 1759, 19 March. George Cardale, on death of W. B. Patron : Thomas Babington of Rothley. *Ibid.* p. 565.

37. 1770, 3 February. William Babington, LL.B., on death of G. C. Patron : Thomas Babington of Rothley Temple, esq.
Reg. XXXIX., p. 132.

38. 1783, 27 October. Henry Woodcock, LL.B., on death of W. B. Patron : Thomas Babington of Rothley Temple, esq.
Ibid. p. 401.

39. 1787, 24 July. Matthew Babington, M.A., on res. of H. W. Patron : Thomas Babington, esq. *Ibid.* p. 465.

40. 1796, 31 August. Aulay Macaulay, on death of M. B. Patron : Thomas Babington, esq. *Ibid.* p. 622.

41. 1819, 29 April. Joseph Rose, M.A.,¹ on death of A. M. Patron : Thomas Babington, esq. Reg. XL., p. 280.

42. 1820, 21 June. Joseph Rose, after cession.² Patron : Thomas Babington, esq. *Ibid.* p. 308.

43. 1823, 18 January. John Babington, M.A.,³ on death of J. R. Patron : Thomas Babington of Rothley Temple, esq.
Ibid. p. 330.

¹Rector of Puddlestow, Herefs. 1815.

²Re-instituted to Puddlestow, 17 June 1820.

³Rector of Puddlestow 1819; of Cossington 23 March 1820.

44. 1836, 16 November. William Acworth, M.A., on res. of J. B. Patron: Thomas Babington of Rothley Temple, esq. *Ibid.* p. 444.

45. 1853, 22 March. Henry John Shakleton. Patrons: the trustees of C. C. Macaulay, esq.

46. 1869, 7 February. Richard Burton, M.A.,¹ on death of H. J. S. Patrons: the trustees of C. C. Macaulay, esq.

47. 1909, 21 May. Samuel John Woodhouse Sanders, M.A., LL.D.,² on death of R. B. Patron: Mrs. Sanders.

48. 1916, 5 July. Lewis Henry Pearson, B.A., on death of S. J. W. S. Patron: Mrs. Pearson.

The vicarage of Rothley was taxed in 1291 at £13 6s. 8d. The pension of 6s. 8d. from Wanlip is noted, but that of 10s. from Skeffington is returned as belonging to the rectors.³ In 1535 it was taxed at £12 9s. 0d. gross, £11 0s. 5½d. net. The pension from Wanlip is again recorded, but there is no mention of that from Skeffington.⁴

¹Of Lincoln Coll. Oxford; B.A. 1853; M.A. 1856; curate of Rothley 1858-1869.

²Of St. John's Coll. Cambridge; head-master of Northampton grammar school 1872-93; hon. canon of Peterborough 1890-1916; vicar of St. Nicholas, Leicester, 1893; vicar of St. Martin's, Leicester, 1893-1909.

³*Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Comm.), pp. 63, 64.

⁴*Val. Eccl.* (Rec. Comm.), IV., 178, 179.

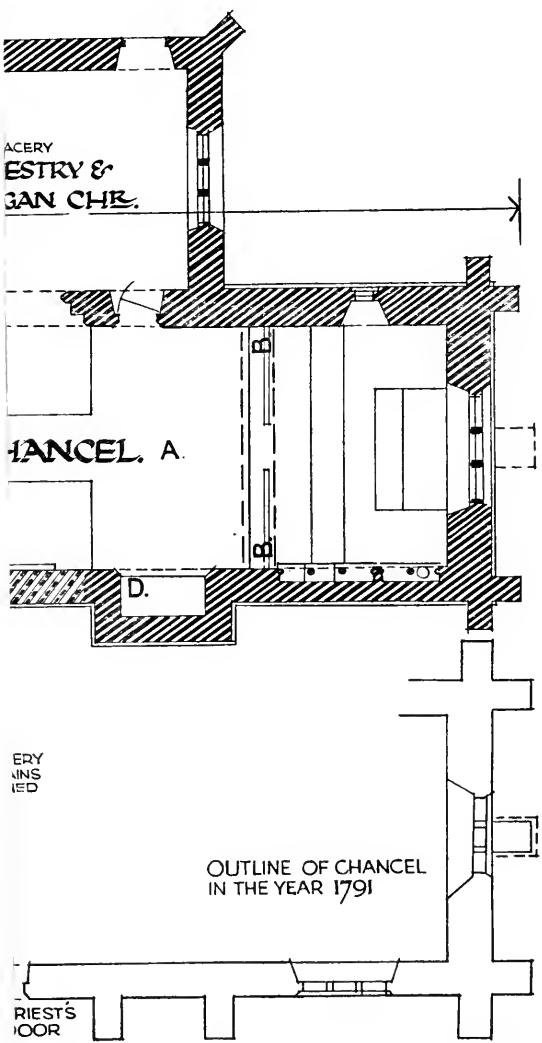
PLATE, NO I.

OS ARE INDICATED ON SUBJOINED DIACRAMS
OWER IS BUILT UPON FOUNDATIONS OF NORMAN
ND TRACES OF ORICINAL NORMAN WALLS OCCUR
BASES OF S.ARCADE PIERS. THE SCINTS AT
JCEST THAT THE ALTAR FORMERLY STOOD
AND THE EAST END AT B.B. THE ROOF OF NAVE
CY TIE-BEAMS, THE OTHER ROOFING THROUGH-
LONCS TO THE 19th CY THE DOTTED LINES ON
NO2 SHEW OUTLINE OF EARLIER ROOFS.

NT IS OF NORMAN DATE. CHANCEL SCREEN, 15 CY.
ENT TO BARTHOLOMEW KYNGSTON AT C IS
486. DITTO. THOMAS BABINCTON - D IS 15 CY
DITTO. ROBERTUS VYNCENT - E IS
NORMAN PERIOD CIRCA 1514.

12th CENTURY  13th CENTURY
15th CENTURY.  CIRCA 1877

IENT CROSS, 30 FEET SOUTH OF CHANCEL, IS
PROBABLY CIRCA 800, A.D.



PLATE, NO. I.

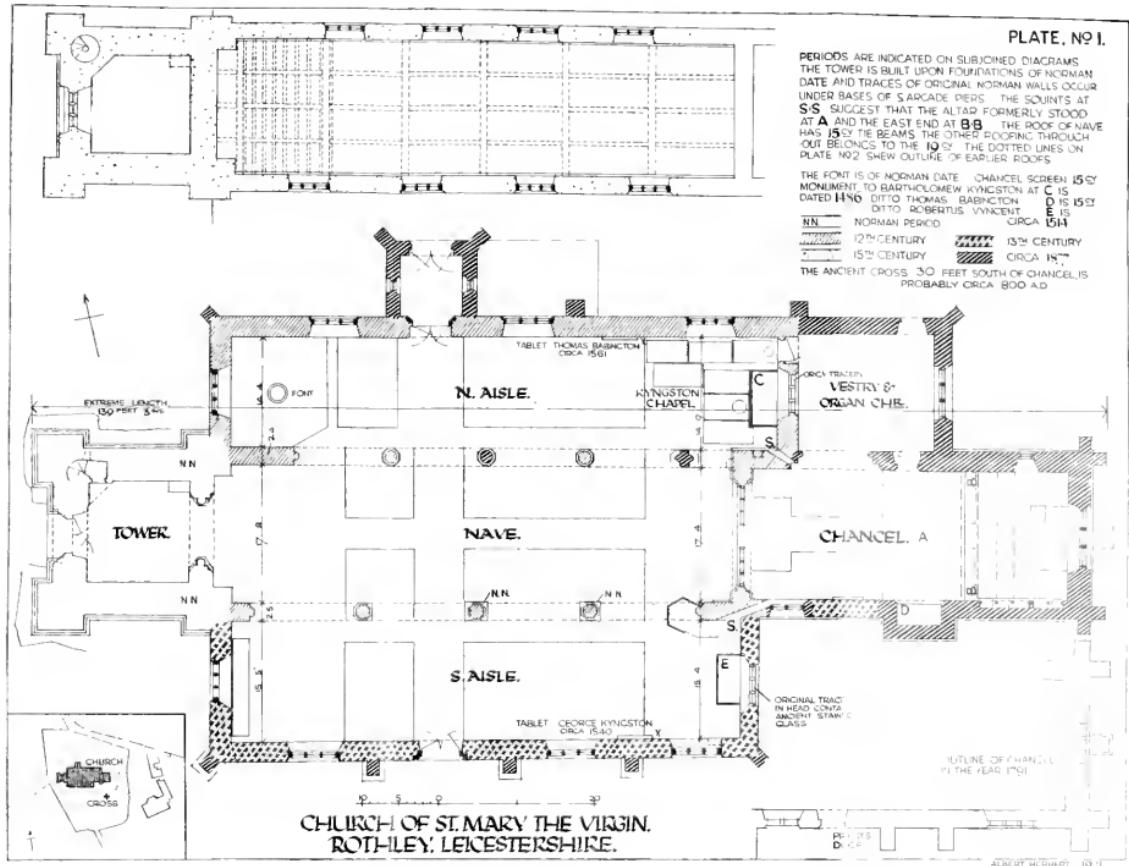
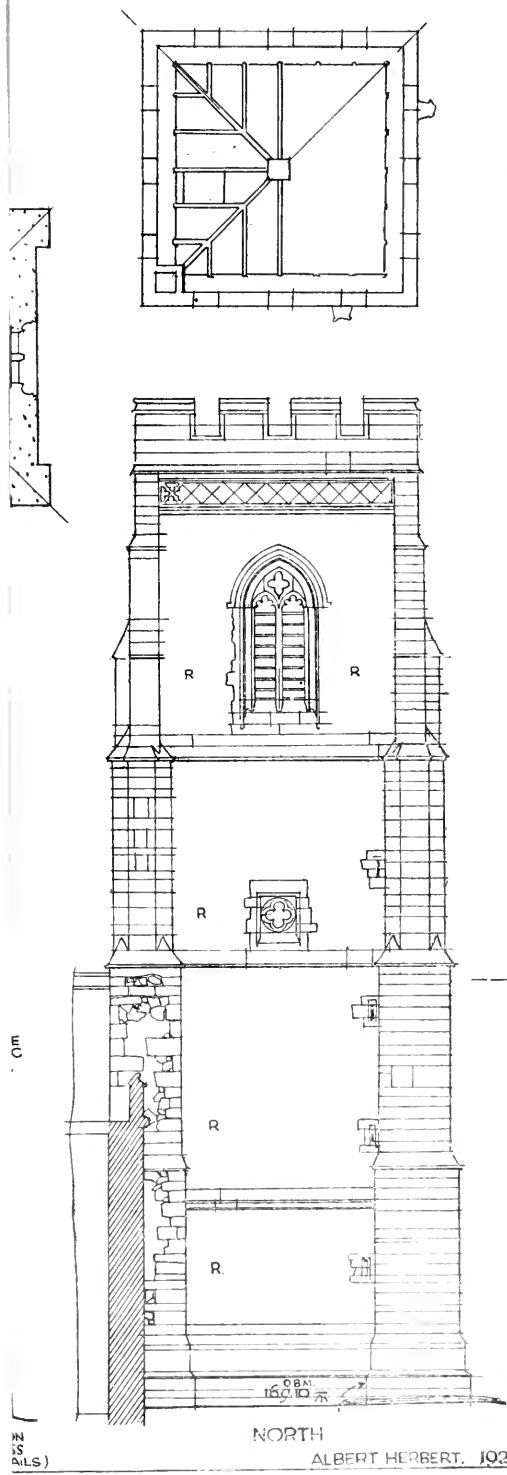
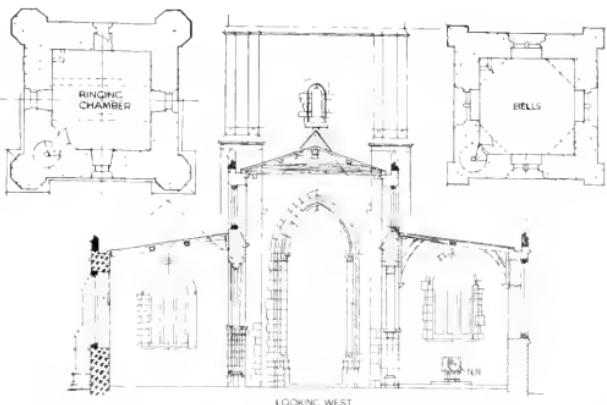
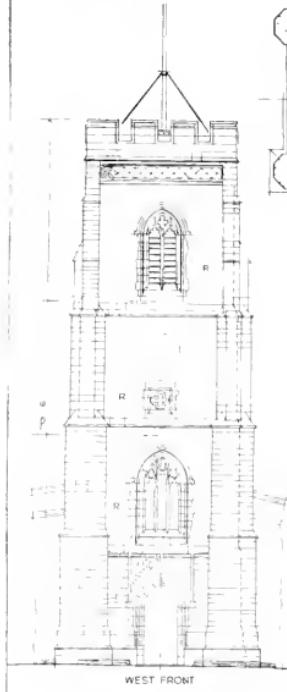


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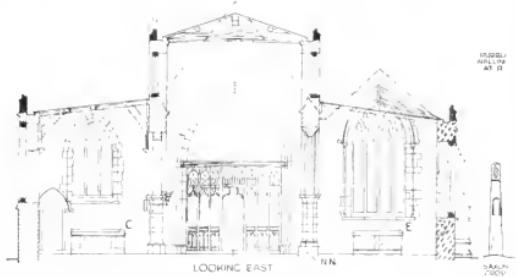


CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.
ROTHLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

2 5 8 11 14 17 20



LOOKING WEST



LOOKING EAST

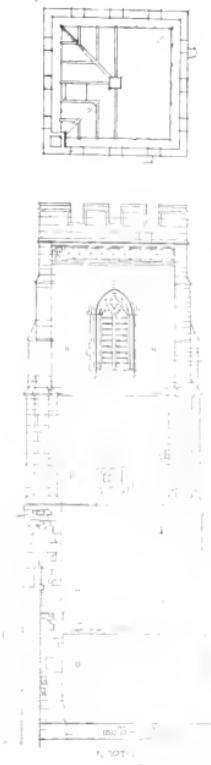
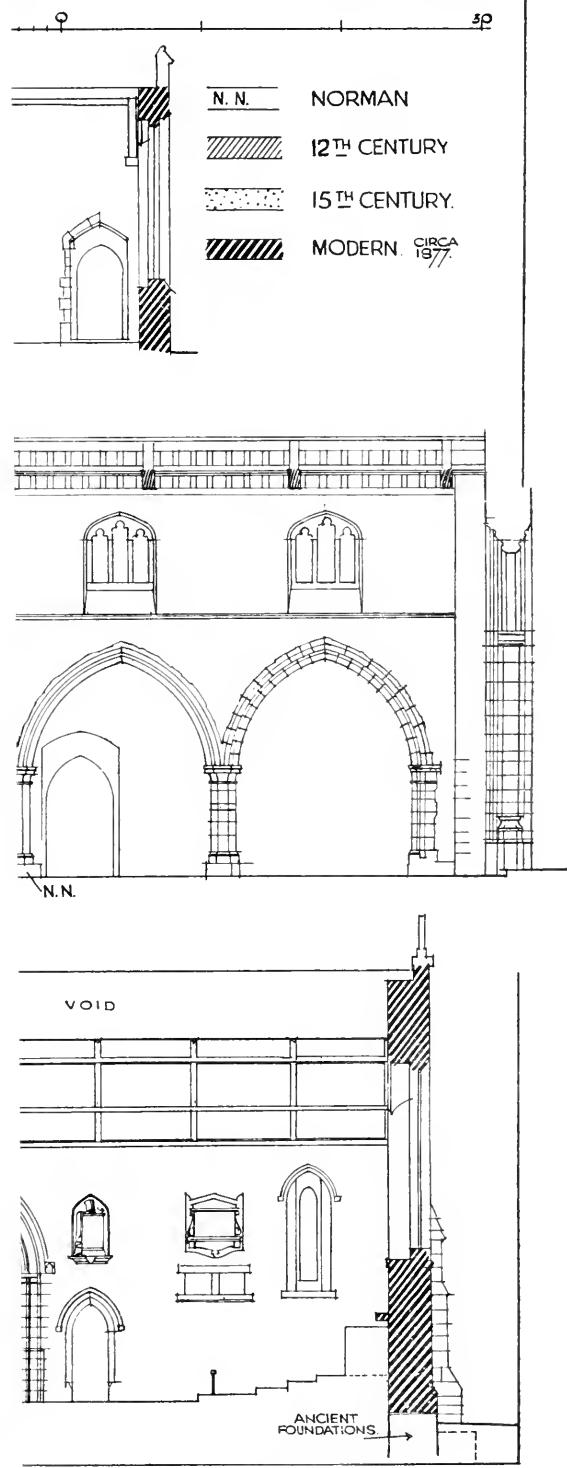


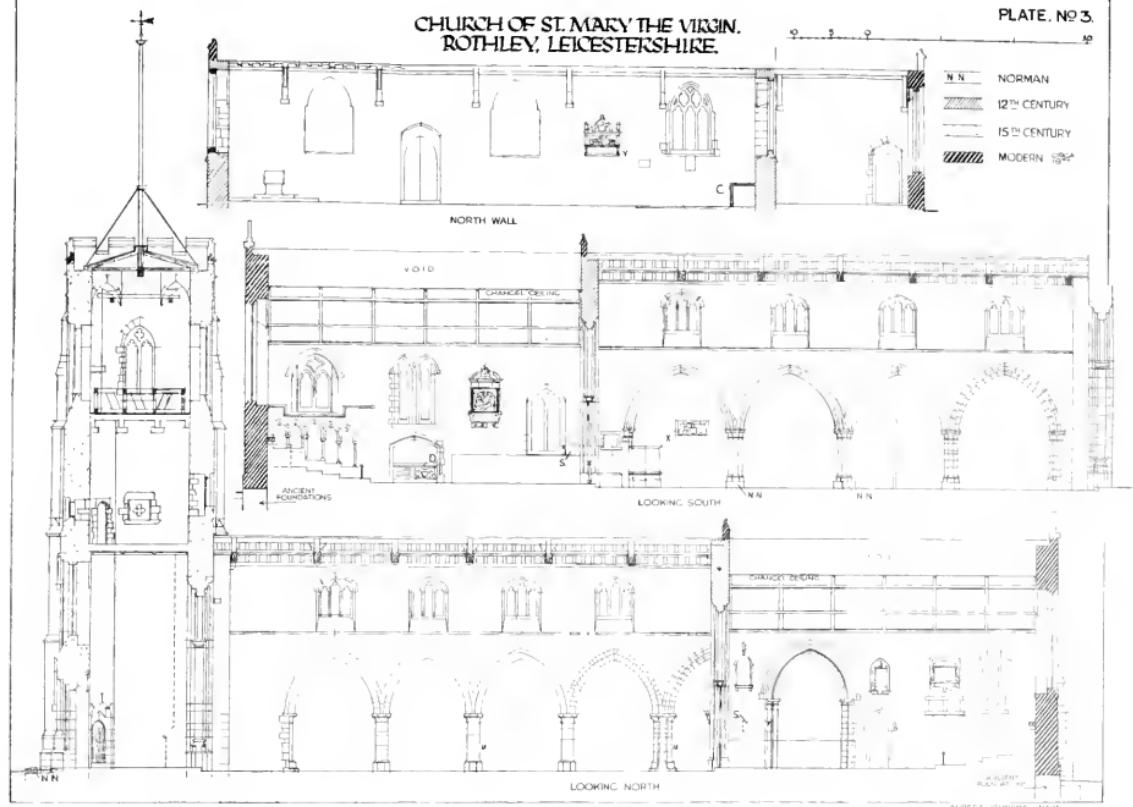
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ALBERT HERBERT. 1921.

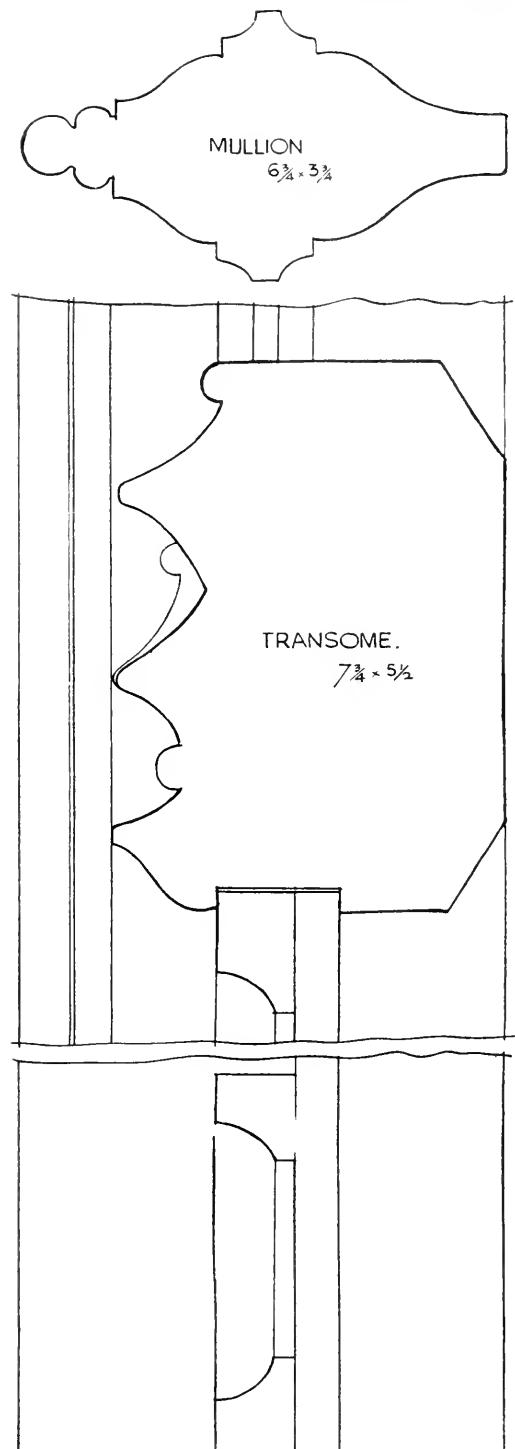
CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.
ROTHLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE.

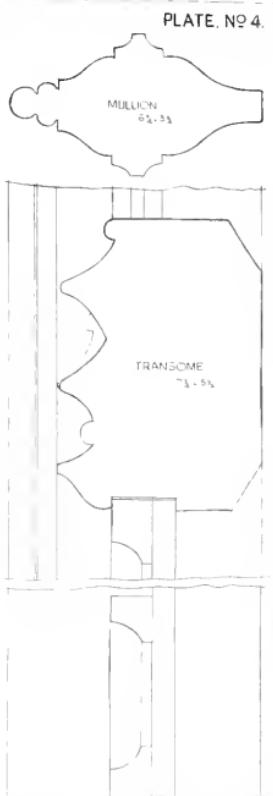
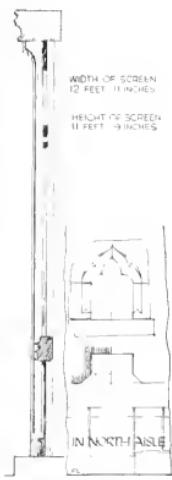
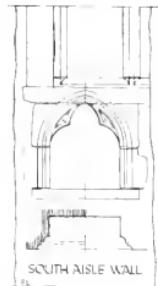
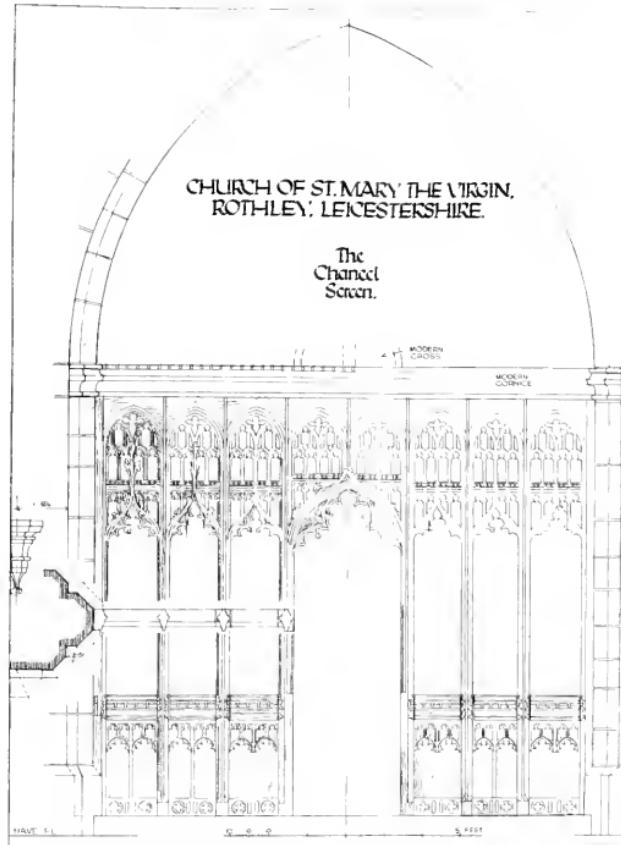
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ALBERT HERBERT 1921

PLATE, NO 4.





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